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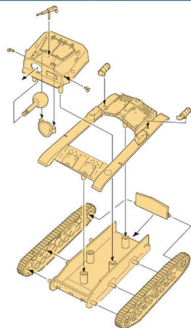
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In the late 1950s and early 1960s, ITN filmed a series of news items abroad called 'Roving Report'. Most have never been seen since their initial broadcast.

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This title is available to buy now from www.strikeforcetv.com

TANKFEST 2011 - EVOLUTION!

The UK's famous Tank Museum at Bovington has confirmed that its most eagerly anticipated event of the year will be taking place on the 25th & 26th June.

TANKFEST has become one of the established must-see annual military history shows, bringing the story of tanks, tank crews and soldiers to life. With an unrivalled selection of modern and historic moving armour displays, living history, family entertainment and explosive mock battle demonstrations, TANKFEST has become popular with both the enthusiast and the more casual visitor.

The emphasis for this years show is Evolution - the evolution of tactics, equipment, technology and the enemy threat. With the future of the Main Battle Tank a near constant topic of debate in defence circles, we pay particular

attention to the developments and innovations, both past and present, that have helped maintain the relevance of the armoured fighting vehicle as an essential part of an army's capability.

With this in mind, live vehicle displays, with expert commentary, will illustrate how the debate on the future of the tank is not a new one - and investigate the future of a machine whose demise has so often been predicted.

Tickets are available now, and may be purchased online from the Tank Museum's website www.tankmuseum.org



TIME-TRAVELLING TOURS AT THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM DUXFORD

Imperial War Museum Duxford's popular tours return for 2011, giving visitors the opportunity to learn more about Duxford's past and the personal stories behind the historic buildings. Now for 2011 are the Women at War tour (running in May) and the Spitfire Stories tour (running in October).

The Grand Tour will reveal the lesser-known stories and facts about Duxford, The Grand Tour gives a whistle-stop exploration of the museum, visiting Land Warfare, the American Air Museum, Hangar 5: Conservation in Action, Hangar 4: The Battle of Britain and concluding with AirSpace, the jewel in Duxford's crown.

The Grand Tour gives an insight into the working of the museum and reveals the human interest stories relating to the exhibits.

The Grand Tour will be held on Saturday 2 April and Saturday 2 July, commencing at 10.30am.

Unseen Duxford - The North Side Tour will reveal a section of the site that is not normally open to visitors. This tour provides an opportunity to explore unseen parts of Duxford, in the company of a museum guide who will bring the ghostly atmosphere of the site to life with enthralling stories and anecdotes.

See more of the historic buildings which formed the domestic part of the fighter station during the First and Second World Wars and find out about their role during Duxford's military past.

Unseen Duxford will be held on Wednesday 27 April, Saturday 11 June and Saturday 10 September, commencing at 11.00am.

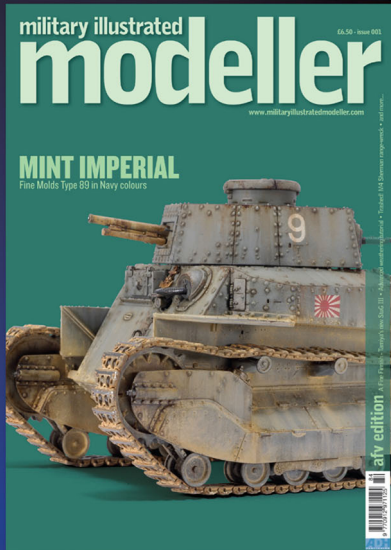
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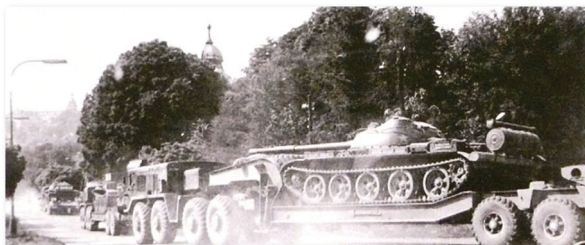
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The T-62 model 1967 had a deep wading snorkel installation, which was stowed on top of the rear fuel drums, as seen here. The tractor is MAZ-537 heavy tank transporter. Note the new arrangement of the road-wheels on the longer hull.

Bruce Culver examines the development, design features and production of that stalwart of the Cold War, the T-62 Main Battle Tank.

T-62 RUSSIAN MAIN BATTLE TANK

The history of the T-62 main battle tank reveals that development of new weapons in the Soviet Union was as hampered by politics, intra-service rivalries, and ambition, as any similar program in the West. The story involves conflicts among the branches of the Russian Army, competition between two design teams - one favoured, one not - and more conflict between the Army and the Soviet government, especially the premier, Nikita Khrushchev. The result was that a secondary design from an unfavoured design team ended up equipping some 75% of the Soviet tank force in the 1970s.

By the late 1950s, the leaders of the Soviet armoured force realised that their current main tank gun the 100mm D-10, was not capable of penetrating the frontal armour of the newer Western (NATO) main battle tanks like the Centurion and the M48 Patton. The introduction of the M60 and the Chieftain made the situation even worse. In a related development, the Soviet government under Nikita Khrushchev cancelled further development of heavy tanks like the existing IS-10 because of the expense of building them and the more limited performance they offered in the field. Khrushchev also was an ardent proponent of the missile tank, armed with guided anti-tank missiles, as the successor to the gun-armed main battle tanks then current. Thus, there was a need to design a new weapon suitable for mounting in medium tanks.

The traditional way to achieve improved penetration performance was to increase the velocity of the projectile, generally by increasing the length of the gun barrel or the size of the propellant charge in the ammunition. There were, however, technical limitations: very long gun barrels could actually warp due to heat as many rounds were fired, and they always presented clearance problems, especially in built-up areas. As tank armour thickness increased, the heavy weight of steel projectiles restricted the speeds they could achieve in the guns of the period, and it was clear that lighter projectiles were needed.

One solution had been in use from World War II: the armour-piercing discarding sabot (APDS) round, which used a sub-calibre hard steel or tungsten carbide penetrator, surrounded by a full-calibre light-weight sabot which was discarded as the shell left the barrel. The sub-calibre penetrator was capable of considerably more speed than a full-size projectile, and APDS rounds were more effective against armoured vehicles than regular AP ammunition. However, APDS ammunition had one disadvantage: it was generally less accurate than standard AP ammunition because the sabot sections often didn't release at exactly the same time, which disturbed the track of the penetrator. It took years to solve this problem, but by 1960, APDS ammunition achieved good levels of accuracy.



The T-55 was the progenitor of the T-62. The T-55 was too small to mount the new 115mm U-5T main gun, so the design was reworked to produce the T-62. Many details on both designs were identical, which favoured development of the T-62.



Cuba was one of many nations that acquired the T-62 from the Soviet Union. This tank fought with Cuban troops in Angola supporting the MPLA faction during the extended civil war.

A second approach was the adoption of High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) rounds, which operated on the Monroe principle, the "shaped charge effect" used by rocket-propelled anti-tank munitions like the bazooka and Panzerfaust rocket AT grenade. The problem in firing HEAT rounds from a tank gun was that the spin imparted to the projectiles by the rifling in the gun barrel reduced the armour penetration of the HEAT warhead by up to 50%. Also, HEAT ammunition was costly and required extra training to ensure the best results. For these reasons, Soviet tanks had not adopted HEAT ammunition by the late 1950s. By the early 1960s, both the Soviet Union and United States had adopted fin-stabilized APDS rounds that did not need to spin to maintain their ballistic tracks. This new ammunition was called APFSDS (armour-piercing fin stabilized discarding sabot) and is used to the present day as the standard MBT main gun ammunition.

Due to the lack of 100mm HEAT ammunition for the T-54 medium tanks being produced in the late 1950s, the Soviets began the design of a new weapon capable of penetrating more armour. The most experienced (and favoured by the Kremlin) tank gun design team set out to work up a new gun, using a modestly lengthened barrel (L/62 versus L/56 in the existing D-10 gun used in the T-55), improved steel and heat treatment of the barrel and breech - allowing higher breech pressures and thus more propellant for higher velocities - and using a more powerful propellant itself.

The new gun was designated D-54, and its muzzle velocity was 13% higher than the D-10, making it possible to defeat the armour on current Western tanks. However, the arrival of the M60 in 1960 switched the balance again, as the M60 was better armoured and an example delivered to Russia by a defecting Iranian officer proved the D-54 with standard ammunition would not be able to defeat the US tank's armour. Development of the D-54 was substantially complete when this new situation occurred, and it also had an effect on the development of new tank designs themselves.

In the 1950s, there were two major Soviet design bureaux tasked to design and develop new medium tanks, and they were related. The older design bureau, designated KB-60 and favoured by the Soviet government, was led by A.A. Morozov and based in Kharkov ▶

T-62s captured from Russian client states were valued for technical study and also as simulated enemy materiel for training. This early T-62 was photographed at the US Army's Desert Training Centre at Fort Irwin.



Syria received a large number of T-62s, and this 1967 model was a casualty of the fighting in the Golan Heights during the 1973 Yom Kippur war. The item standing next to the turret is a 115mm round for the main gun.



A number of Warsaw Pact countries also operated the T-62. This Polish model 1972 demonstrates the smoke-generating equipment during an exercise in 1984. Note the laser designator mounted in the muzzle of the 115mm main gun.





Think Tank - T-62 Russian Main Battle Tank



Like the T-55 before it, the T-62 was equipped to carry two large fuel drums over the tail-plate as an auxiliary fuel source for road marches. This model 1972 has the deep-wading snorkel mounted on the left rear of the turret.



Algeria was another Russian client that acquired a number of T-62s. This 1972 model is missing the usual turret mounted heavy machine gun but has the modified turret.



Algerian T-62 model 1972s carry a multi-colour scheme of sand and green, a common camouflage in the western North Africa area where there was more vegetation than in the eastern Sahara desert.



North Korea imported 200 T-62 model 1972 tanks, naming them the "Ch'onna-ho II". North Korea also began production of modified versions with thinner armour to reduce weight, as the "Ch'onna-ho I (Ga)".

◀ In the Ukraine. In 1941, it had been moved from Kharkov to escape the German invasion of Russia and had moved to the town of Nizhny Tagil in the Ural mountains. After the war ended, Morozov's bureau returned to Kharkov, but left a design team at Nizhny Tagil, headed by Leonid Kartsev. Nizhny Tagil also contained the Uralvagonzavod (UVZ), the largest tank plant in Russia during WWII, producing not only tanks but also railroad equipment. The Soviet design bureaus developed new designs and oversaw prototype production and testing, but did not produce their designs in series; that was left to production centres like UVZ and the Kharkov locomotive works.

In the late 1950s, Morozov's KB-60 bureau was working on the next generation battle tank, designated Object 430. Leonid Kartsev's OKB-520 bureau was tasked with improvements to the T-54A medium tank, resulting in the T-55. It also designed a new experimental tank, the Object 140, which had advanced features such

as lighter smaller road wheels, but was cancelled due to mechanical and technical problems.

As mentioned, Nikita Khrushchev had cancelled heavy tank development in the belief missiles would replace guns on tanks. Kartsev's bureau worked on a missile tank to meet the Kremlin's demand for a missile-firing system. The new design was called Object 150, and was built using much of the work done on the T-54/T-55 tanks. The increased space requirements for the missile system (called "Drakon" - Dragon) demanded a longer hull, which Kartsev's team designed by lengthening the T-55 hull and relocating the torsion bars in the suspension to carry the weight. While the Drakon missile system was very advanced for the time, it was not technically feasible to build it in quantity, as the technology was not ready. After some test firings, the system was waiting further development when Khrushchev was overthrown and the work on missile tanks stopped.

The Soviet tank forces still had a

gun that was not effective against the latest Western tanks. While the tank development bureaucracy in the Kremlin wanted the D-54 rifled gun, there was the question of how to improve it to defeat the opposing armour. In 1958, the Russians had introduced the 100mm smooth-bore T-12 towed anti-tank gun and its performance was superior to any other 100mm weapon. Khrushchev took to the new weapon and insisted that it be fitted in a tank quickly.

The experience with the T-12 100mm smooth-bore gun showed the design offered real advantages, but developing a new 100mm smooth-bore weapon would take a lot of time, and the need for a better gun was urgent. It turned out the ammunition for the T-12 was considerably too long to fit in any current Soviet tank. Leonid Kartsev, the head of the OKB-520 tank design team, suggested boring out the 100mm D-54 by removing the rifling instead of adopting the T-12, resulting in a smooth bore of 115mm diameter. By also enlarging the firing chamber, the ammunition

could be made shorter so it would fit inside the tight confines of the current Soviet medium tanks. The Kremlin issued orders, followed somewhat reluctantly, to develop the new gun, which was designated the U-5T Molot (hammer). Tests showed the new gun had a significantly higher muzzle velocity. Kartsev's OKB-520 design bureau had traditionally been relegated to largely secondary tasks, leaving Morozov's favoured OK-60 bureau to work on the more advanced and prestigious projects. Kartsev was ambitious and wanted his bureau to do more original work, and here fate intervened. The new US M60 MBT introduced in 1960 mounted a new 105mm gun, an American version of the excellent British L7A1. While the Kremlin tank bureaucracy preferred the D-54 100mm gun, the new 115mm smooth-bore design held great promise. However, neither the D-54 nor the new 115mm weapon would fit into the turret of the T-55. The turret ring was too small to mount the larger weapon. However, the Object 150 ▶



The Israelis captured hundreds of T-62s during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, including these Syrian model 1972s. Israel supplied a number of these to other countries for technical evaluation, and modified others for use by Israeli units.



A captured Syrian T-62 model 1972 leads a T-55 after being taken over by Israeli troops in the Golan Heights. Many older tanks were in wide use, some upgraded but many others in original as-issued configuration.



This Syrian T-62 model 1972 of the Syrian 10th Armoured Division was abandoned in the Golan Heights and captured by Israeli units. There were a variety of colour schemes used by Syrian tanks in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.



This burned out T-62 hull represents the farthest advance of Syrian forces in the "Valley of Tears" during the fighting in the Golan Heights. Hundreds of Syrian tanks were destroyed or captured in this hard-fought campaign in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.



The Israelis rebuilt a large number of captured T-62s to augment their own tank strength and this Tiran 6 was one of many completed during the modification program. The Russian engine was replaced and laser and thermal sights were added for the gunner. Note the older "spider" wheel on the second axle.



Russia's war in Afghanistan was long and costly, and the newer T-64 and T-72 were unnecessary to fight guerrillas without armour, so the T-62 was the tank used in Afghanistan. This early model was dug in as support for a firebase, a common tactic.



This T-62MI of the Berlin Regiment leaves Afghanistan in 1987 as the Russians begin withdrawing from the country. Note the added "brow" armour on the turret front and the snorkel equipment stowed on the left rear side of the turret.



Although the Russians wrote off or abandoned over 1300 T-62s in Afghanistan, many of the tanks were serviceable with repairs and continued to serve the Afghan forces during the 1990s and into the 21st century.



Think Tank - T-62 Russian Main Battle Tank



Afghan armoured units have used primarily Russian equipment since the 1970s. Here a T-62 model 1972 leads a column of various T-62s. All models of the T-62 serve in the Afghan Army at this time and the automotive performance is similar in all models.



In this column of T-62s, a model 1967 leads a T-62MI, which had armour added to the turret. Many T-62s were reworked to upgrade them. The T-62MI resulted from Russian experience during the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s.

◀ experimental tank Kartsev's bureau had designed for the missile tank program had a lengthened chassis suitable to take a larger turret. Kartsev's team took the enlarged turret from the failed Object 140 project and mounted it on the Object 150 chassis, which used many T-55 components. They reasoned that a tank designed to be similar to existing tanks would be more likely to be put into production.

Kartsev's group built two prototypes. The Object 165 was the new design armed with the 100mm D-54 gun favoured by the tank bureaucracy in the Kremlin, and appeared in 1958. It wasn't authorized, and the Kremlin officials didn't find out about it until it was ready for testing. Two years later, Kartsev was authorized to build another prototype identical to the Object 165 except mounting the new

U-5T 115mm smooth-bore gun. This became the Object 166. Compared to the T-55, the hull length was increased 386mm and the turret ring diameter increased 420mm. While the Object 165 was considered a tank, the Object 166 was a tank destroyer, a self-propelled version of the T-12 towed AT gun.

The official plan was to proceed with Morozov's advanced Object 430, armed with the 100mm D-54 gun, with Kartsev's simpler designs not entering production. The tank bureaucracy didn't want Khrushchev's ad hoc 115mm smooth-bore on one of their battle tanks. Testing showed the D-54 had better penetration than the U-5T, 350mm versus 250mm, but the results had been skewed because the D-54 had been fired using tungsten carbide penetrators while the U-5T had used inferior hard steel projectiles.

And there the matter might have sat, except for the formidable Commander of Soviet Ground Forces, Marshal Vasily I. Chuikov, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, and victor at Stalingrad and Berlin. Chuikov was not a sophisticated engineer or designer, but an experienced and opinionated combat commander. He was extremely upset to learn that Western tanks were mounting a 105mm main gun while Soviet tanks still had a 100mm weapon. Upon learning that Kartsev's bureau had developed a tank with a 115mm gun, but not selected for production, Chuikov flew into a rage, dressing down the head of the central tank design organization, demanding that the larger gun be installed in a tank now.

Morozov's Object 430 still had the D-54 gun, but Morozov had started work on the Object 432, the same design mounting the new

U-5T 115mm gun. However, there would be a considerable time delay to rework the turret and mount designs, and redesigning the U-5T to accept separated (two-part) ammunition, since the autoloader in the smaller turret on the Object 430 could not handle the full-size round. Kartsev's Object 166, on the other hand, was ready for production with relatively few minor changes.

The OKB-520 Object 166 was selected for production as the T-62 medium tank, and to satisfy the tank bureaucracy Object 165 with the D-54 was ordered into production as the T-62A. It was planned to build the T-62 family only until Morozov's favoured Object 432 could be bought into production, and wasn't expected to remain on the assembly lines long. In the event, continuing development problems with the Object 432 resulted in an extended building program for the T-62, and it remained in production ▶



The Afghan Army was rebuilt in 2003 to provide an indigenous defense capability for the country. The 1st Afghan Armoured Battalion is based in Kabul, operating refurbished T-62 tanks. These two examples are 1967 models without the turret heavy machine gun.



A T-62MI of the 1st Afghan Armoured Battalion shows the extra turret brow armour, smoke grenade launchers, and a laser rangefinder mounted over the main gun. The refurbished tanks were painted in this scheme of red-brown over sand.



The Russians left behind a number of T-62s when they withdrew from Afghanistan. This T-62M1 shows details of the late T-62. The KTD-1 laser rangefinder over the base of the main gun, the added brow armour, and the optional slatted armour panels to protect against shaped-charge weapons were features of these improved versions.



In 1980, Iraq invaded Iran, starting a brutal and costly war that lasted 8 years. These T-62 model 1972 tanks are in the Iraqi 4th Corps, here seen in the Basra area in 1981. The added sand skirts are similar to those fitted to Chinese derivatives of the T-62.



This Iraqi T-62 model 1972 of the Iraqi 3rd Armoured Division passes through Khoramshahr, Iran in October 1980, during the Iraqi-Iran war. Though initially successful, Iraqi armour later suffered higher casualties.



During Operation Desert Storm, US and coalition troops attacked Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait. This abandoned T-62 model 1972 of the Iraqi 3rd Saladin Armoured Division is seen on the "Highway of Death" in February 1991 after Iraqi troops attempted to retreat from Kuwait back to Iraq.



Ethiopia was another country that received numbers of T-62s. Here a T-62 model 1972 sits burned out during the civil war that broke out in 1991. Behind it under a tarpaulin is a T-55, the immediate predecessor of the T-62.



In 2008, tensions between Georgia and Russia over disputed territories in South Ossetia led to an outbreak of military conflict. This T-62 model 1972 seen entering the disputed area was part of a strong Russian contingent that eventually defeated Georgian forces. This tank has the laser rangefinder and slatted armour panels but no applique armour.



Think Tank - T-62 Russian Main Battle Tank

for 13 years. UVZ in Nizhny Tagil built just over 19,000 T-62s, and Czechoslovakia built some 1,500 for export later. The "stop-gap" tank ended up equipping 75% of the Soviet armoured forces in the mid-1970s.

T-62 DESIGN FEATURES

The T-62 had a crew of four: driver, commander, gunner, and loader. The driver sat in the front of the hull, the commander was in the left side rear of the turret with the gunner in front of him, and the loader was to the right of the main gun breech on the right side of the turret. There were four rounds of ready ammunition carried in the turret, with the rest of the 40 rounds carried in bins at the rear of the fighting compartment and alongside the driver at the right front of the hull.

The main armament was the 115mm U-5TS (2A20) smooth-bore gun, equipped with a two-axis "Meteor" stabilizer. A new feature of the T-62 was an automated shell ejector that threw empty shell casings out through a hatch in the upper rear of the turret. A coaxial 7.62mm PKT machine gun was to the right of the main weapon. 2500 rounds were carried for the coaxial

MG. Later models added a 12/7mm DShK 1938/46 heavy machine gun on a mount by the loader's hatch in the turret. This gun was added to deal with the increased use of anti-tank helicopters.

The armour on the T-62 was initially quite effective. The turret front was 240mm, the sides were 150mm, the rear 95mm, and the top 40mm. Hull armour was 100mm on the glacis plate, 80mm on the upper sides, 45mm on the rear, and 20mm on the belly. As modifications were introduced, some of the armour thicknesses changed.

The T-62 suspension was mounted on torsion bars, five stations on each side, carrying large road wheels as used on the T-55 series. The engine was the V-55, a 38.8 litre 12-cylinder diesel rated at 580 hp. Maximum speed was 50 km/h (24 mph). 960 litres of fuel were carried in internal and external fuel tanks. Maximum range on roads was 450 km, but this could be extended to 650 km by mounting two 200-litre fuel drums at the rear.

There were three main production variations. The Model 1962 was the initial version, as described above. Very early

examples used details from the T-55, like the engine access hatches, but these were soon replaced. The Model 1967 introduced a snorkel deep-wading system, and the snorkel was carried over the rear fuel drums when not installed on the turret. The Model 1972 introduced a new turret with a raised loader's hatch and a built-in installation mount for the 12.7mm DShK 1938/46 heavy machine gun. The mounting for the snorkel was moved to the left rear corner of the turret.

It should be noted that the T-62 had many of the limitations found on the T-55. The interior was very cramped, so much so that shorter men were chosen as tank crews. The early stadiametric ranging system was crude and not as good as the Western sighting systems. The ammunition bins were not well-protected and in combat, hits on the glacis could set off the ammunition in the forward bin. The spent cartridge ejection system was dangerous if the ejector was not correctly aligned with the ejection port in the turret. Cases could hit the edge of the port and bounce back into the turret interior, injuring the crew. The fuel tanks in the crew space caused casualties

when the tanks caught fire.

The automatic shell ejection system also slowed the rate of fire, as the gun had to be fully depressed for the ejector to align with the turret port to remove the shell casing. During the ejection phase, the power turret traverse didn't work, so the commander or gunner would have to traverse the turret manually. In combat, the extended time it took the ejection system to work and return the gun to the aimed condition meant that firing on the move or rapid second shots were not possible.

The T-62 also proved to be too slow to accompany the new BMP infantry fighting vehicle cross-country and this reduced its value to Soviet tank forces.

When Morosov's Object 434 - the Object 432 fitted with a newer 125mm smooth-bore gun - entered production as the T-64, the T-62 began to disappear from many Soviet units, and then became the principal export main battle tank for Russian foreign customers. Thousands are still in service or active storage in dozens of countries, and will no doubt be in service for years to come.

T-62 evolved further into the T-72, but that is another story. ■



A Russian tank unit in South Ossetia shows various configurations of their T-62 model 1972s. The tank on the far right has full hull and turret slatted armour while the others have only partial installations. By this time, Russian units used the T-62 to avoid losing more valuable T-72 and T-80 tanks.



In Chechnya and other places in the Caucasus, fighting against Islamist insurgents cost the Russian forces many armoured vehicles, leading to the use of older tanks that were less valuable. This T-62 model 1972 carries a full set of slatted armour to defeat RPGs.



One of the latest versions of the Russian T-72 tank family is this T-84, built in Ukraine. It carries the latest in anti-tank defensive measures, including active and passive protection, reactive armour, and new electronics.



The Kharkov tank plant in Ukraine also offers an upgrade package for the T-62, called the T-62AG. It includes a new engine, a 125mm smooth-bore main gun, and the latest reactive armour. The result is a T-62 that looks like the later T-84, and carries most of the same offensive and defensive capabilities.

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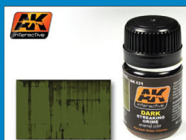
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A RUSSIAN IN KABUL

Michael Rinaldi transforms his favourite post-war Russian tank into the upgraded T-62M1 using Trumpeter's 1:35 scale kit and Mig Productions' multimedia conversion.



The T-62 has long been one of my favourite post-war Russian main battle tanks. This was the tank that captured my imagination back in the 1970s when I first started reading all those Steve Zaloga books on the subject. The books were packed with grainy black and white photos of Soviet war games with hordes of T-62s rolling across the plains belching white smoke with Mi-24 Hinds buzzing closely overhead, or the endless May Day parade photos showing row after row of shiny turrets and raised barrels. Ah, how I

miss the good old days!

Unfortunately for us modellers, for going on four decades we have been saddled with the ancient Tamiya 1:35 T-62 as our only injection-moulded option. Thankfully, Trumpeter has finally answered the call to produce a modern kit of this important subject. In fact, they have produced two versions of the tank to date— the Model 1962 and Model 1972. While the kits are certainly a step forward from Tamiya's product, they are not without their own set of accuracy issues.

However, this article won't delve too deeply into sorting out that topic, and instead will focus on a recently produced aftermarket set from Mig Productions that created a different version altogether.

Back when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, the T-62 underwent a series of modifications and the resulting tank was called the T-62M. Those changes included additional appliqué armour for the hull front, new turret frontal armour pieces, new sights and laser target designator, plus other general automotive improvements

intended to bring it into line with its then current NATO counterparts. When that conflict ended and the Russians retreated home, quite a few pieces of armour were left behind including a handful of these T-62Ms. Some were even equipped with a special lead-lined anti-radiation layer on top of the turret, which was then a fashionable feature of Soviet armour as further protection from EMI Productions blasts. This specific and quite rare version will be the subject of this build.

“Trumpeter has finally answered the call to produce a modern kit of this important subject...”



TRUMPETER'S KIT AND THE NEW BITS

The impetus of this model was for the use as Mig Production's box art, and because of the imposed deadline, it did not allow for too much energy to be spent on correcting the Trumpeter base kit faults (the set requires the Model 1972 kit). To just briefly touch on this topic, the kits were dissected at length on the various modelling forums when it debuted. The Modern discussion group on Missing Lynx, in particular, was a source of very helpful information. Depending upon how much one

wants to correct them, the most glaring issues are:

- the rear deck angle is incorrect
- the engine deck details are somewhat incorrect
- the turret hatches are slightly off in their location
- nearly every weld bead present on the real tank is missing on the kit

This is just a very brief overview of the kit's issues, so if you are inclined to investigate further this gives you a good starting point to do so.

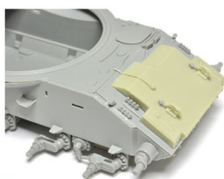
The first construction steps go quickly for the lower chassis and road wheels. No real surprises arise here and the parts fit well, with only the usual effort to remove seam lines and fill minor gaps that are typical for this level of kit from Trumpeter. I took a slight detour and scratch built an exposed wheel hub for the second station on the left side, and this required a shortening of the axle as a result. I also don't want to sound too negative in my assessment of this kit, so let me state that I indeed liked the kit in general

and it builds into a respectable model straight from the box, plus I enjoyed the build regardless. It is a really cool version of the T-62!

Once the hull and chassis were assembled (I left the fenders off until last—more on that later), it was time to add the first of the resin pieces. If you haven't used resin pieces before, there is a cleanup process that must be followed otherwise damage may result. It is very important to always measure twice and cut once when removing the pour plugs. A fine razor saw is highly



The hull has been assembled with the new engine deck and minor enhancements.



Mig Productions' upper front armour is in place. Note the new T-72 style tow hooks.



Mig Productions supplies appliqué armour for the lower front hull too.



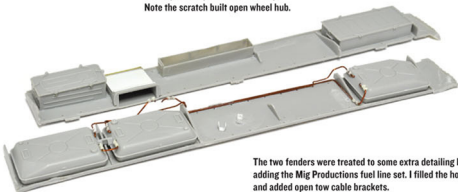
The wheels are treated to some severe wear with a Dremel tool. Thankfully the black tyres are plastic and not vinyl! Note the scratch built open wheel hub.



Trumpeter's individual track links are the later RMsh style and really look the part.



The basic hull assembly with the wheels and tracks fitted so they can dry properly.



The two fenders were treated to some extra detailing by adding the Mig Productions fuel line set. I filled the holes and added open tow cable brackets.



Here the fenders are tested in place to ensure proper fit. Note the thinned and bent fender front.

◀ recommended for this task, and any minor air bubbles (typical for resin) should be addressed as well. Sometimes resin parts can be slightly warped from the casting process and it is essential to straighten any parts before assembly begins, either with a hair dryer, or by soaking in very hot water for a few minutes and then cooling the piece against a flat surface. In this set, my parts

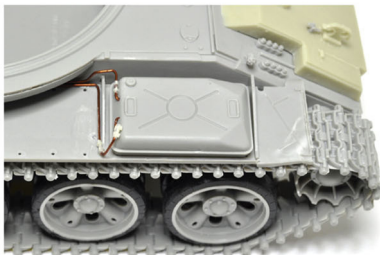
were all straight and bubble free because I had one of the first pulls out of the moulds. Lucky me! With that said, I attached the frontal hull appliqué armour panels, two large pieces for the upper and lower nose areas. Smaller detail parts were added afterward such as the large T-72 style tow hooks.

Next up was the turret assembly. Here the Mig Productions set completely

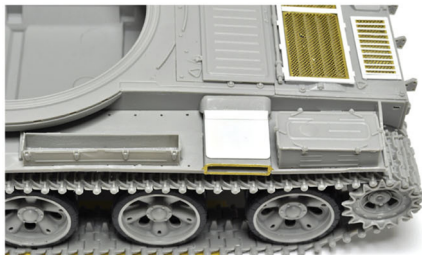
replaced the plastic parts. In an attempt to be transparent and thorough, there was (as of this writing) a shrinkage issue with the large turret casting. Mastered off of the original Trumpeter turret, however, the early-production casting run was struck with this problem, but Mig Productions reacted quickly and new turrets were cast in the correct size, which are available direct from Mig

Productions (if you already have the incorrect one). New sets are not affected. Beyond that, I found the turret to be quite impressive and the added detail very accurate to the aforementioned M variant as compared to my reference photos. In fact, I found little I could add to this detailing.

Construction was very straightforward with the bulk of assembly time spent fitting the



The updated fuel tank assemblies in place.



These additions may be small details, but they have a big visual impact.

two main "horseshoe" armour pieces, the new sights and laser designator, hatches, and the myriad of lifting lugs present around the sides of the turret. The addition of a large quantity of the missing weld beads delivered a significant visual improvement, and this meant that I had to attend to those on the resin turret as well. For that process I used a two part epoxy resin called Magic Sculpt. This has a slow setting time, can be textured appropriately, and adheres well to both plastic and resin alike.

I also spent some time updating the rear engine deck. Since it required only minor styrene scratch building, that step went well enough for my purposes. More could be done to be 100% accurate, but I chose to add just enough detail to give an improved visual presence and nothing more. As it was, I needed to dedicate time for the track assembly, never a quick task with link-to-link tracks. The kit tracks are quite nice and accurate for the medium and the assembly went well enough. My technique of choice was to lay a thin 1/8" wide strip of double side tape on my bench long enough to assemble one complete run, and then as they are held in place add the liquid cement to each joint. I let this dry for approx. 10 minutes and then carefully removed the run from the tape and placed it on the model. Not having the fenders mounted helped enormously to set the prominent sag required of these tracks. I taped the last joint together and let them dry overnight on the model. Afterwards, I could easily remove each run as a single unit for the painting stages and replace them at the very end of the project.

Another reason I left the fenders off was so I could add the missing fuel tank lines to the model without interference. I used the Mig Productions T-55/62 fuel line set for this purpose, and found the end result quite convincing. The

set comes with all the wire and the resin connectors that must be added to the right-hand fender fuel tanks, which is critical for an accurate T-62. The left-hand fender was treated to some minor exhaust modifications, and I also took the opportunity to further illustrate a neglected tank by altering one of the storage boxes to appear empty. With construction now completed, I did the final assembly of the major parts and then primed everything with Mr. Surfacer 1200 for the coming paint stages.

PAINTING TIME

Now the fun began! The real reason I agreed to this commission project was the chance to attempt one of the famous abandoned Kabul tank yard subjects. Photos of this site over the past few years have illustrated a fascinating array of decaying Russian-built armour, and amongst those remaining vehicles were a couple of the rare T-62Ms in all their desolate faded glory. It must be said that without said reference photos none of this project, even the master pattern, would have been possible. We are truly lucky for this crucial information. Well let's dive into now, shall we?

I knew immediately when presented with the evidence how I was going to proceed. In front of me were clear colour photos of a paintjob clearly showing at least four layers of paint and at least six colours in total. It was a hairspray technique dream come true. How could I not use this method in fact? I simply had to! So with no adieu whatsoever, I immediately painted the model in a layer of primer red (yes, the Russian used it too) and various rust tones. I covered this layer with two even coats of hairspray and let it dry for a few minutes. Next, I base coated the model in a very pale and vibrant shade of light green reminiscent of the shade that Russian green fades to after decades of harsh exposure.

Mig Productions' main turret is a single casting

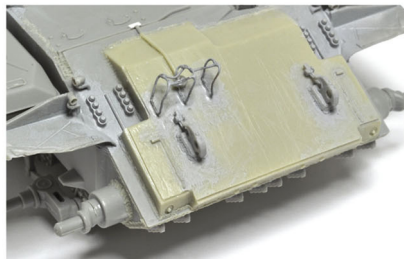


All the M specific parts are now in place.

(For the purposes of this method I use Tamiya acrylics thinned with water exclusively, I find the chips and scratches are superior as a result). My green mixture was home made and is approx. based on the following ratio of 50% XF-5 Green, 30% XF-21 Sky and 20% XF-3 Yellow, which you can adjust according to your own needs. I also added some lightened patches on top of this for further colour variety. After the green had dried, I quickly set about to chip this layer of paint--and chip away I did. For those of you new to the hairspray technique, to chip the paint simply use some water and a short stiff brush, wet the area of the model and scrub away in a strategic manner. The more scrubbing you do, the more paint will come off since the hairspray is water-soluble and dissolves away taking the top layer of paint with it in a spectrum of very in-scale effects, leaving the bottom layer untouched. For this project, I spent a long time comparing the ref. photos to my

work in order to ensure I was faithful in how the plethora of chips and scratches looked.

Time for hairspray layer number two. Moving along, I repeated the same process for the next two colours of camouflage, the light sand grey and black stripes. I proceeded to chip those layers to accurately replicate the intense paint wear seen and the result was well worth it. Next up was to paint the anti-radiation armour layer on top of the turret. Since this material is actually a type of fabric-covered material it wears more extreme than the rest of the tank. Photos show this material to be a very pale greyish colour so I hand painted these panels as such, and then covered this with more hairspray and then sprayed some of the pale green and chipped this back just as before, resulting in a very convincing appearance. I'm still not done with the hairspray. I needed to add the large Afghan turret numbers and photos showed these were commonly worn down ▶



All the missing weld beads were added. Mr. Surfacer is used to seal each area afterwards.



Note the new headlight guards made from brass rod, and the empty searchlight bracket with its extra detailing.



The entire model was primed with Mr. Surface 1200, which is my preferred choice.



The first base colour is a mixture of red primer and rust coloured paints. Note the tins have been painted a medium grey at this stage.



Here comes the first of many layers of hairspray. My choice is an extra-fine mist spray can.



The base coat of faded Russian green is applied next.

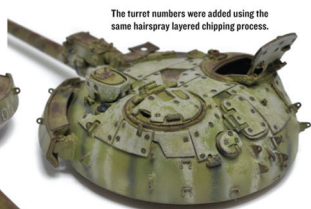
The basic task of chipping is performed with a short stiff brush and some water. I work one section and concentrate on making the chips in a realistic manner.



The model was given another layer of hairspray and then the next two camouflage colours were applied and chipped as before. Afterwards, I hand painted the anti-radiation panels with pale grey Lifecolor paints.



The turret was treated to further paint detailing.



The turret numbers were added using the same hairspray layered chipping process.



The areas of paint worn down to the bare metal were given extra dark rust colours using fine brushes and small pieces of sponge. Note how they are concentrated in the central areas of the large chipped sections to create a layered effect.



The first weathering treatment was done with 502Abt. oil paints to create a fine layer of dust on the upper hull.

I use Mig's Odourless Turpentine to blend the oil paints as I go. Note the various brushes used for this process.



to almost nothing. I decanted some hairspray into my airbrush and spot sprayed the front turret armour. This was followed by dirty white paint for the numbers, which I then chipped accordingly. For the digits I used some leftover Eduard number masks and chose a number relative to the Afghan subject, albeit non-specific to this tank.

At this stage of the painting, the model was quite advanced and I spent the rest of the time using a traditional brush and sponge to add the darker layers of exposed rusted metal to many of the chipped areas illustrating those spots worn down to the metal. The end half of the barrel, in particular, received a healthy amount of dark rust patches in accordance with the reference photos of this area. In reality, one could hardly chip and rust these subjects enough, but admittedly I tried to keep a modicum of restraint to create a pleasing model.

YEARS OF SAND AND SUN EXPOSURE

With the bulk of the painting done, the time had come to add the weathering. Some of you may consider paint wear and chipping "weathering", but I find it is easier to discuss and divulge the techniques used when the chipping is considered part of the paint process. Weathering to me is simply getting the model dirty, and for this I use two main products; oil paints and pigments, in that order generally speaking.

To start with the oils, I first make a palette of related colours on a small piece of scrap cardboard, which serves the purposes of absorbing the linseed oil, dramatically shortening the drying time, and most importantly, allows them to dry dead matte—critical for replicating dust and

similar effects. Typically I start in one spot and slowly work my around the model, hull first, then the turret, and make efforts to keep the effects consistent as I go. Beyond that basic breakdown, the real trick to the way I use oils is not the "random dot" method, but instead I place the exact colour I want in the spot I want, then blend it out with a clean brush and a smidge of thinner. Any quantity of thinner beyond that will turn the oil to a wash, and this most assuredly is not my intention with this technique.

Speaking of washes, you will notice I have basically skipped this step. The reasons for this departure from the norm, were that I felt desert or abandoned subjects should be treated with a different approach to the typical combatant. Years of neglect, sitting outside in extreme environments do not create the accumulation of grit and wear typically seen on an operational combat unit, and thus does not require the standard pin-wash stage to amplify the detail in that manner. In fact, my end game was to devalue those details and create a visual appearance related directly to the look of desolation when viewing the reference photos of these abandoned pieces. I tried hard to capture that look of despair and loneliness, and felt a different approach was warranted

"In front of me were clear colour photos of a paintjob clearly showing at least four layers of paint and at least six colours in total. It was a hairspray technique dream come true..."



The results of the oil paint dust layers, which were applied to the turret as well.



Note the extra layer of heavily chipped dark green colour on the inside of the open hatch, again made with the hairspray technique.



The next layer of dust was applied with Mig Pigments. I made a custom batch of light dirt colours and applied them directly to the model. They were then fixed with thinner.



The tracks were painted in a pale grey tone and then given random patches of rust paint.



A brown wash was applied next, followed by more pigments.



Here are the tracks after fitting to the model, and the final element is in place.

with my processes.

Returning to the weathering, after I worked my way around the model with the oils, I went back over some specific spots to enhance them further. Here I switched from the lighter dust tones to the darker more oily colours. This was used to emphasise the darker exposed metal areas and add to the layers of rust and polish. I also spent some extra time on the anti-radiation layer since I had to ensure it looked like a textile and not painted metal.

I then switched my attention to the lower extremities and used pigments to replicate a light dust layer down low. I applied the pigments dry and then lightly airbrushed some thinner over them to help set them in place. I added a few dark oil washes for the blown grease seals and worn out wheel bearings, but that was about it. From there, I carefully added some of the same pigments to the tops of the fender surfaces to tie the two major areas together and that wrapped up the weathering stages.

FINAL DETAILS

As I closed in on the completion of the model, I still needed to add a few last details. I hand painted a code number on the glacis plate (added for each Kabul tank to record them) and as one last ditch effort to use as much hairspray on this project as I could, I picked out a couple of wheels, and the commanders hatch, with a dark bright green that I chipped heavily since I saw this exact effect on a couple of tanks and just couldn't resist the temptation to do so, as they say—for visual interest.

The final bit of work required was to paint and weather the tracks. Here I used a slightly different palette than normal, again because of the environment. I started with a basecoat of tan-grey (ironically Israeli Sandgrey from Lifecolour), and then sprayed on random patches of rust tones over that layer. On top of that work I added Mig's Brown Wash followed by a dry-brushing with a dark rust colour over the outer edges with a small piece of sponge for a brush. The end result closely matched how the tracks, long since unused, appeared in the desert. No need for bright graphite effects on these tanks.

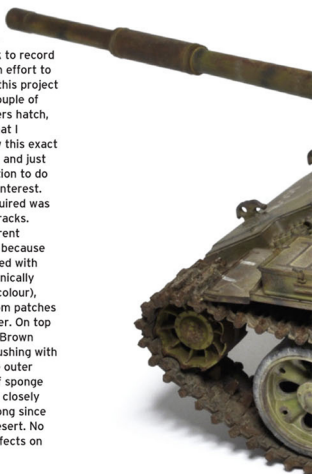
CONCLUSION

That about wrapped it up. I took my final photos and sent them off to Mig Productions for their artwork. I was happy with the end result and thrilled to paint up my first Kabul veteran. It will most certainly not be my last!

Special thanks goes to the crew at Mig Productions for the opportunity to build this model. ■



I hand painted a code number on the glacis plate



Mig Productions' resin conversion really transforms the base kit.



Lighter shades of oil paints were used to emphasize the darker exposed metal areas and add to the layers of rust and polish.



A couple of wheels and the commander's hatch were picked out with a dark bright green for visual interest.



Modelspec

Trumpeter T-62 Model 1972 00377
Mig Productions 1:35 T-62M1 Conversion MP35372

Accessories Used

Mig Productions T-55/62 fuel line set (MP35350)
Mr Surface 1200
Extra fine mist hairspray

Paints Used

Tamiya Acrylics: XF-5 Green; XF-21 Sky; XF-3 Yellow
Lifecolor Acrylics: Israeli Sandgrey
Winsor and Newton Oil Paints

Weathering Products

Mig Pigments (various)
Mig Productions Brown Wash

✓ Nicely detailed; easy construction; great base for a fascinating project; Mig's resin conversion a pleasure to work with.

✗ Some accuracy issues with Trumpeter's donor kit.

Available from

Trumpeter is distributed in the UK by Pocketbond Ltd.
Distributed in Australia by J.B. Wholesalers
www.jbwholesalers.com.au

Rating ●●●●●●●○



Darren Thompson finds that there are a number of differences between this, Dragon's early version Sd.Kfz.7, and their previous release.

EARLY SEVEN

This is the second release for this version of Dragon's 8 ton half-track, but this time around it gets a few new tweaks and a set of crew figures.

The original kit release, no.6466, marked as the initial production version, was a real gem and I was quite surprised to see Dragon revisit it so soon. However, rather than just add the sprue of crew figures and be done with it, they have included another brand new sprue, giving new body sides and back, new top rear deck and much finer luggage basket rails.

The new sides feature hand-hold cut outs for the crew, rather than the vertical grab rails and the new rear sees the circular rear light move from the left hand to the right hand side, with a rear Nettek convoy light taking its old position.

The new shape luggage rails are the reason for a new top deck, with the new one having the location holes required for its positioning.

Earlier, when I said that Dragon had included a new crew I was only half right, as there are actually only six figures, not the eleven required to man it fully. The new figures are very well thought out though, with the tails of the jacket moulded to the upper body and the front flaps, with pocket detail, supplied as separate parts for added

definition. All six figures take up slightly differing poses, although they are all seated. All the figures are supplied with the appropriate side-caps, but no other kit is included and this also extends to the lack of rifles. Only two are included, which is a real shame, as the very finely reproduced rifle racks would look great filled with weapons, as per the real vehicle.

The rest of the kit is as per the initial release, with an excellent lower chassis, full engine and transmission and accurately portrayed road wheels with very fine, two-part individual track links.

One of my complaints with all the other Dragon Sd.Kfz.7 kits is the overly heavy step-ring on the drive sprockets. A separate etched ring is supplied, but rather than this representing the step-ring itself, it is merely a wrapping for the plastic part, providing the raised dot pattern tread plate.

Full winch assembly and spare wheel bay are included below the chassis floor, while above it the three rows of bench seats and rear storage bins are all faithfully re-created, the later being detailed inside and out, allowing the doors to be modelled open or closed.

The driver's compartment features separate foot pedals, hand brake and gear shift levers and the entire crew floor has the maintenance panel and lift ring detail moulded within the fine dot pattern tread-plate.

The instrument panel has the fine detail moulded in place but no decals are supplied for the instruments, so a steady hand and some careful painting will be required to get the best from it.

The engine firewall is also suitably busy, with horn, brake line and hydraulic detailing all present. The engine side panels can be left off to display the engine and indeed the whole front hood assembly can be removed to show of all your handy-work.

Marking options are offered for three vehicles, all serving on the Eastern Front. One is in overall Dark Yellow, belonging to 256th Infantry Division and two unidentified units, one again in Dark Yellow, and the last in a soft-edged, three-colour scheme.

Pre-cut masks are also supplied for both inner and outer surfaces of the windscreen, which is a nice touch.

While there is not a great deal of difference from the earlier similar release, there are just enough changes to make this model sufficiently different from the original release to justify it.

A full crew of eleven and a set of rifles would have been the icing on the cake though.

Highly Recommended. ■

Thanks to The Hobby Company for the sample www.hobbyco.net



The one-piece lower body is moulded with the fenders.



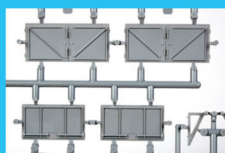
Stowage and access hatches are moulded into the floor.



The new body sides feature vertical hand holds.



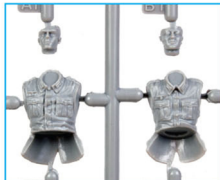
Material texture on the seats is really well done.



All mouldings are crisp and free from imperfections.



The one-piece chassis.

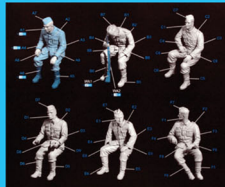


Facial details and uniforms are very good. Five more figures for a full crew complement would have been nice though!



The separate sections of the tunics are a nice detail touch.

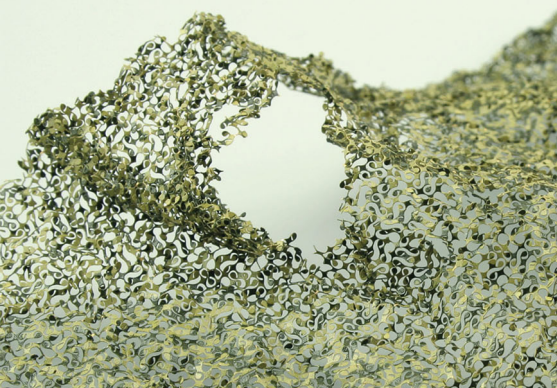
Fabric folds and hands may be seen here.



Six figures are supplied.

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IT'S COLD IN RUSSIA

Matt Wellhouser builds a new figure from Jeff Shiu Miniatures' large scale range.

The Germans found out in a hurry that Russia was cold in the winter. They were not prepared for it. They lacked adequate cold weather gear and subsequently paid the price. Of course, other armies had found that out several centuries before that too.

This figure depicts a German Waffen-SS Machine gunner in the early years of the invasion of Russia, carrying an MG34 machine gun and dressed in the standard issue greatcoat. This coat was completely inadequate for sub zero temperatures. The sculpting on the face gives a not too happy look.

Jeff Shiu in Hong Kong has burst onto the figure model scene with several very nicely sculpted 1:15 scale figures. This one is no exception. The figure is cast in light grey resin. What is really remarkable is that the body of the figure is cast in one piece. Actually, the left arm, head and body are all cast as one piece. The kit has a total of 14 parts. This makes assembly fast and really straightforward.

GETTING STARTED

The first step in any figure assembly is cleanup of the parts and basic assembly. I usually like to paint the parts (canteen, magazine pouches, and entrenching tool) separately then add them to the figure when most of the painting is finished. This allows me to get the paintbrush in the hard to get areas and keeps from breaking off the delicate parts.

On this figure, I assembled the right arm, lower legs/boots, and the entrenching tool. I added these parts as it was actually easier to do at the beginning of work. I had to add some A&B putty straps to the entrenching tool. This only took a few minutes to do. Once the putty was dry, I commenced painting. I used my Iwata airbrush to spray a basecoat of Tamiya Grey Superfine Primer. Then the colour application commenced. Since the guy is wearing a big greatcoat, field grey was the colour of the day. I used the airbrush to spray this colour on the figure. I then lightened it with yellow/buff and sprayed the shadows with the base colour mixed with black.





Construction was remarkably fast and easy thanks to the one-piece body casting.

Once the basic colour with highlights and shadows were laid in, I base coated and began painting the face. To protect the paint on the lower portion of the figure from handling, I wrap the figure with bubble wrap or plastic wrap-like Saran Wrap.

Painting went very quickly since very little of the face is exposed. I used the basic colours (all Vallejo) of Brown Sand, Burnt Cadmium Red, Basic Skintone and Black. Brown Sand is the base colour, highlighted with Basic Skintone; shadows were laid in using Burnt Cadmium Red mixed with Brown Sand, then adding more Cadmium

Red and Black for the deepest shadow areas. Just remember to keep your mixes thin and don't overload the brush with paint. For the eyes, I use a lightened mix of the flesh highlight plus Off White; this forms the basic eyeball. Then I decide to use a medium blue colour or brown for the iris. The pupil is a small dot of black.

Here is a handy tip. Modellers have a fear of painting eyeballs. Usually they end up with crazy eyes - one pointing one way and the other another. Easy fix - don't have your figure looking dead straight ahead. Have him looking off to the side or off center. Once

finished, I overcoat the eyes with Future clear acrylic floor polish.

With the face done, I moved onto the backpack. On the back is a pack frame with a Zeltbahn (shelter quarter), gas mask can, and mess tin. The Zeltbahn can be painted as a blanket roll or as a camouflaged Zeltbahn. Since this is a "SS" dude, I decided on the spring Plane Tree pattern. The Plane Tree pattern is a combination of green, black-brown and "salmon pink" colours. Using a reference, I painted the salmon pink colour first and then green and finally a black brown. Using lighter shades of this colour, I added highlights. Then darker

shades were added in for shadows - I like to use Vallejo German SS Camo Black Brown added to the base colour for this. Keep in mind the green has two shades - a lighter green, then a shadow of a slightly darker green. Make your paint mixes thin. It is easier to add than take away.

Once I finished the Zeltbahn, I moved on to the mess tin, painting it an olive colour. When dry, I gave it a diluted coat of Future floor polish. This gives it a semi gloss look - the real ones had a little bit of sheen to them. Then scratches and nicks were painted in with the same SS Camo Black Brown. ▶



Field Grey is the order of the day here. The greatcoat has been prepared with a sprayed base coat of Tamiya XF-65 Field Grey

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The helmet will eventually wear a camouflage pattern. The base coat has been applied - a maroon/tan colour. It approaches a shade of lavender.



Vallejo Orange Brown, Desert Yellow and Gold Brown is mixed for the basic "splotchies".



I add Burnt Umber to this for shading.



Next I add the Camo Black Brown dots and splotchies.



A little German Camo Beige is added to edge the seams.



Straps are painted next.



The result is German autumn oak leaf camouflage pattern.

◀ Metallic scuffs and marks were added with a silver prismacolor drawing pencil. The gas mask can was treated in a similar way, but I varied the base colour by using Vallejo's Russian Green. All the straps were base coated with flat black, and then washes of Vallejo Leather Brown, Orange Brown and Burnt Umber were added.

About this time I began painting the belt, "Y straps" and machine gun tool pouch - that's the box like container on the front right.

I also undercoated the bread bag and the entrenching tool. As the painting progressed I added to the colour of the leather areas by mixing various shades of brown- I like to add Vallejo Orange Brown to black for a nice warm leather colour. Then I add tans and other brown colours to simulate wear on the leather items. In obvious areas of wear, I add lighter colours to the base colours to simulate the black finish wearing through to the base leather. I have found that you need

not be shy here- the more contrast is good- it adds dimension to the figure and gives a message that the subject has been in combat- not marching around the parade area. Practice this technique on the belts and straps- because I use the very same for the boots.

As I progressed along, I added highlights and shadows to the greatcoat. I constantly go back and forth adding to areas that need attention - not to mention the occasional touch up.

The helmet cover was painted in an autumn oak leaf camouflage pattern. Again, look at the reference pictures. I base coated with a maroon/tan colour. It approaches a shade of lavender. I then add the black brown to the mix (thin) and outline the seams. Then a shade of Vallejo Orange Brown, Desert Yellow and Gold Brown is mixed for the basic "splotchies". I add Burnt Umber to this for shading. Then I add the Camo Black Brown dots and

The larger areas of the lower greatcoat are masked off before detail painting begins.



The Zeltbahn is finished in a "Plane Tree" pattern.



The Plane Tree pattern is a combination of green, black-brown and "salmon pink" colours.





Here is an example of the shades used for the flesh colours, showing how the shades are blended from shadow to highlight.

splotches. A little German Camo Beige is added to edge the seams—it defines the edges and shows a little wear (these colours are all Vallejo).

The MG 34 slung under the figure's right arm was assembled and painted with Humbrol Metalcote Gun Metal. This is a buffing colour. What happens is you spray the colour with your airbrush and let dry. Then using a cotton bud or similar you "buff" the painted piece. This gives a very nice dark gunmetal blue effect. I like to use some ground up pencil lead rubbed on with my finger in high wear areas. The butt stock on these weapons was either

wood or a plastic material. For the wood finish (this also goes for the entrenching shovel handle) I paint the wood area with a basecoat of any off white acrylic colour—light tan, buff, off white, etc. Once dry I apply artist's oil colours applied with an old brush. I use brown tones—sienna, umbers, etc. applied thinly. Then I wipe all colour off the brush and streak the finish. Pulling the brush through the paint creates brush marks that appear to be wood grain. Since the oil colour takes a while to dry you have time

Ancillary items were painted with Vallejo acrylics—the bread bag, canteen and other details.



The MG 34 slung under the figure's right arm was assembled and painted with Humbrol Metalcote Gun Metal.

Basic colours of Vallejo Brown Sand, Burnt Cadmium Red, Basic Skintone and Black were used for the face.



Shadows were laid in using Burnt Cadmium Red mixed with Brown Sand, then adding more Cadmium Red and Black for the deepest shadow areas



For the eyes, I use a lightened mix of the flesh highlight plus Off White. This forms the basic eyeball.



The pupils are set to the side to avoid "mad eye syndrome"



The box-like container on the front right is the machine gun tool pouch.



“Another great figure by Jeff Shiu...”

to play with this. In addition, you can go back and touch up, add, etc when dry.

As I got farther along with the figure, I added the ammunition box (painted with Vallejo Olive Green) and the gun to the figure. I fashioned a sling from lead foil. Ancillary items were painted with Vallejo acrylics - the bread bag, canteen and details such as the entrenching tool and bayonet. The figure was then set aside while I worked on the base.

THE BASE

The base is turned hardwood with a recessed top. I masked the edge with low tack tape. I predrilled mounting holes matching the placement to brass wire I had inserted into the figures legs before painting started. I built up the ground cover with a mix of wall spackle real dirt and pigments. As that began to dry, I temporarily inserted the figure on the base to form indentations in the semi dry groundwork. I removed the figure prior to the ground work drying. Be sure to add some pins or toothpicks to preserve the mounting holes! Then I added a mix of baking soda and microballons for snow. This was affixed with a very dilute mix of white glue (pva) and water. When this dried, I came back and added

more of the “snow” mix to build it up. Future floor polish was then added with a brush to simulate the semi thawed snow and water. Future added to the pigment mix made great wet mud. When dry, I usually use very diluted oil colours - in this case Rembrandt Sepia to tint the snow. Once the figure was affixed to the base, more snow-mud-water was added to “blend” in the figure to the terrain. The masking was removed and some minor touch ups were made.

Once the base was dry, I added mud and dirt to the figure. For this the same mud recipe for the base was used, using pigments, matte gel medium and Future floor polish. I varied the amount of Future to simulate the “wetness” of the mud.

I concentrated the mud/dirt to the lower portions of the greatcoat, boots, elbows and places that would get naturally dirty from slogging through the muck. I also added some snow mixture to vary the consistency of the muck.

Peeling the masking from the base revealed a couple of flaws, but they were easy to repair.

A couple of touch-ups to the figure and a nameplate added to the base finished off the project.

Another great figure by Jeff Shiu has now been added to my collection. Whether you are just starting out with figure modeling or you are a seasoned veteran, this

is a fun kit to paint - not too many parts and easy to assemble. ■

The entire figure is made up from only 14 parts making assembly fast and easy.

All the straps were base coated with flat black, and then washes of Vallejo Leather Brown, Orange Brown and Burnt Umber were added.



Good reference is an essential aid to painting any figure models.

A sling for the MG 34 was fashioned from lead foil.



Modelspec

Jeff Shiu Miniatures 1:15 scale SS Machine Gunner

Materials

AGB putty, Wall Spackle, Future Floor Polish

Paints and Finishing Products

Tamiya Grey Superfine Primer
Tamiya Acrylics: XF-65 Field Grey; XF-60 Dark Yellow; XF-57 Buff
Vallejo Acrylics: Leather Brown 871, Dark Blue Grey 867, Green Brown 879, Dark Yellow 978, Sunny Skintone 845, Khaki 988, German Camo Beige 821, Olive Grey 888, Mahogany Sand 846, Brown Sand 876, Basic Skintone 815, Burnt Cadmium Red 814, Cadmium Maroon 85, Olive Grey 888
Humbrol Metalcolor Gun Metal
Rembrandt Oil Paints: Sepia

References

Waffen-SS in Colour Photographs - Andrew Steven and Peter Amodio, Europa Militaria 116
Camouflage Uniforms of the Waffen-SS - Michael Beaver, Schiffer Military Books
Waffen-SS Camouflage Uniforms and Post-war Derivatives - Daniel Peterson, Europa Militaria Series

- ✓ Excellent quality sculpting and casting; body cast in one piece.
- ✗ None noted.

Available from

online from Jeff Shiu Miniatures' website
<http://jeffshiu.net/46.net/main.html>

Rating ●●●●●●●●

The base is turned hardwood with a recessed top, to which a suitably snowy surface has been applied.



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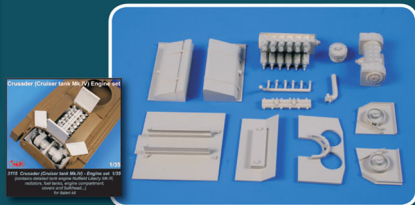
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Part Two – Painting and Weathering

FIRE FROM THE PULPIT

The Editor has some fun painting Dragon's 1:35 scale M7 Priest and its clutter of stowage.

Does Olive Drab have to be drab?

When I first returned to modelling in the late 1980s, I thought that German three-colour camouflage was the most challenging finish. I have recently changed my mind though.

Even without weathering, German three-colour camouflage is quite bright and appealing when compared to darker single colours

such as Olive Drab.

As a result of this epiphany, I have recently tried to make Olive Drab look a little less drab on my models.

If you are interested in building Allied vehicles, there is no point trying to avoid this essential camouflage colour. Fortunately though, (but with apologies to Paul Simon) there must be 50 ways to paint Olive Drab.

A CHANGE IS AS GOOD AS A HOLIDAY

In Issue 58 of Model Military International, Sam Dwyer and I presented our joint Tasca M4A3(76)W project. I painted this model in a solid dark coat of Tamiya XF-51 Khaki Drab, and then applied various washes, hairspray and pale shades of dirt and mud to lift the intensity and lightness of the overall colour.

This time, I wanted to work from

the other direction and start with a fairly pale shade of Olive Drab overall.

My inspiration was Issue 25 of Allied-Axis, which featured an M19 Gun Motor Carriage. The museum example had a heavily weathered coat of Olive Drab that had faded drastically to a pale greyish green shade. Although this colour was even a little too pale for my project, it gave me an idea for a



The model as we left it in the last installment. The interior has been painted and stowage added. The green tarpaulins, packs and rolls are formed from a two-part epoxy called Kneadatite.



The painted interior was masked off with Tamiya masking tape. The cylindrical turret was masked with a roll of paper, which was then stuffed with a wad of rolled up tissue paper.



A coat of Tamiya's Grey Primer straight from the can provided "tooth" for the coming camouflage coat, and also offered the last-minute opportunity to check for lingering gaps and other imperfections.



The tarpaulin from the rear deck and the uniform jacket from the front were removed from the vehicle and sprayed separately.

Tracks and running gear were sprayed with a 50/50 mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown.

new paint mix.

I blended Tamiya acrylic XF-22 Field Grey with XF-51 Khaki Drab in equal proportions for my Olive Drab base colour. The mix is perhaps slightly too green, but I was happy enough to use this shade as the base coat.

PAINTING THE INTERIOR

Although I normally complete building my AFV models before painting them, the detailed interior of the Priest demanded that I

break out the airbrush before assembling the superstructure.

The first parts to be painted were the sighting poles. They were sprayed Tamiya acrylic XF-2 Flat White, then they were masked with Tamiya tape. The next coat was Tamiya XF-7 Flat Red. Finally, the red and white poles were masked in preparation for painting the rest of the interior.

The interior sub-assemblies were now painted with a base coat of the XF-22 and XF-51 mix. A paler version of this already pale Olive Drab mix was prepared by adding some Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow. This pale mix was selectively sprayed to highlight areas of the interior and the gun.

A fairly heavy wash of thinned oil paints was applied to the interior, along with small spots of dark yellow and black/brown.

These were eventually blended into the background colour.

Dragon's approach to the ammunition tubes was to mould them with the racks as a single piece for each side. The racks were masked off and the tubes were sprayed a shade of scale black - a 50/50 blend of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown. The tubes were then sprayed with Future Floor Polish, and yellow band decals were applied to each individual tube. Dragon supplies ▶



The rest of the vehicle was sprayed the same pale Olive Drab mix used for the interior - equal quantities of Tamiya acrylic XF-22 RLM Grey and XF-51 Khaki Drab.



A pale blend of the Olive Drab mix was made by adding some XF-59 Desert Yellow. This was mottled irregularly over the base colour. Patches of straight XF-51 Khaki Drab were also painted here and there representing dark stains.

these decals. Although their application was tedious, it was not especially difficult and the bands really do have a big visual impact on the finished model.

Dials for the instrument panel were sourced from a sheet of Archer Fine Transfers. The lenses are just spots of Micro Krystal Kleer painted on top of the dials.

The interior of the gun breech and the recoil rail were painted with Humbrol Gun Metal Metalizer.

A couple of coats of Gunze H20 Flat Clear blended the interior colours before moving on with construction.

If I were to build this model again, I would delay adding the various small wheels and controls on the gun until I was just about finished the kit. I must have knocked these small parts off a half-dozen times during construction and painting.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

We have already discussed the balance of construction and adding stowage in the first installment of this short series, so we will now fast-forward to painting the exterior.

The painted interior was covered with Tamiya masking tape. The cylindrical pulpit was masked with a roll of paper, which was then stuffed with a wad of rolled up tissue paper. The painted and weathered gun barrel was also protected with paper, rolled around and taped snugly in place.

A coat of Tamiya's Grey Primer straight from the can provided "tooth" for the coming camouflage coat, and also offered the last-minute chance to check for lingering gaps and other imperfections. Surprisingly, this time there was nothing to repair or add before spraying the main camouflage colour.

The tarpaulin from the rear deck and the uniform jacket from the front were removed from the vehicle before it was primed. These important stowage items were sprayed separately.

Tracks and running gear were sprayed with a 50/50 mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown. You don't need to be particularly accurate or tidy with this dark colour, but do make sure that the tracks are covered, as well as the nooks and crannies of the running gear and the lower hull.

The rest of the vehicle was then sprayed using the same pale Olive Drab mix used for the interior – equal quantities of Tamiya acrylic XF-22 RLM Grey and XF-51 Khaki Drab.



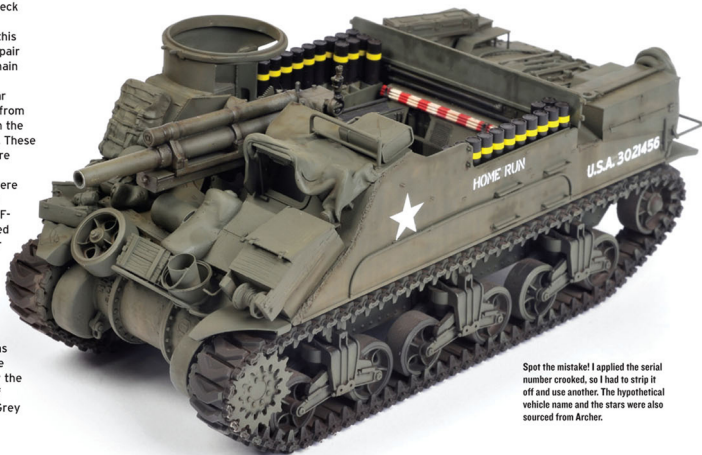
Masking was removed once the fading and staining was complete. Note the dark vertical streaks added to the pulpit and underneath the fuel filler positions.



Archer Fine Transfers were used exclusively for the markings on this model. The serial number was first cut out and taped to the side of the model.



The tip of a 2B pencil was used to rub down the transfer from the backing sheet onto the painted plastic of the model.



Spot the mistake! I applied the serial number crooked, so I had to strip it off and use another. The hypothetical vehicle name and the stars were also sourced from Archer.



I like to use a paper palette when applying detail paints. This works especially well with Vallejo's squeeze bottles or tubes of oil paint.

A pale blend of the Olive Drab mix was made by adding some XF-59 Desert Yellow. This was mottled irregularly over the base colour. Patches of straight XF-51 Khaki Drab were also sprayed here and there to depict dark stains. I paid special attention to the stains below the fuel filler hatches, and vertical streaks on the side of the pulpit.

Marcus Nicholls, Editor of Tamiya Model Magazine, sent me a photo of an interesting Priest after I had started building my model. Although I was too late to depict the late M4-style suspension units fitted to the vehicle in the photo, I found inspiration and reference from the stowage and markings of this fascinating M7. The field telephone box, the covered grouser box, the cut-down front mudguards, the bucket, spare wheel, tarps and the jacket hanging from the front corner of the superstructure were all based on Marcus' reference photo.

The reference vehicle also

displayed a small star and a name - CANCELLORSVILLE - painted on the hull side and a serial number towards the rear of the hull. As I had already installed the early M3 suspension on my model, I decided to make markings for a hypothetical vehicle - although perhaps the real reason was that I did not want to apply 16 individual dry transfers for the real vehicle name!

Archer Fine Transfers were used exclusively for the markings on this model. The transfers were all cut out and taped to the sides of the model before being rubbed down with the tip of a 2B pencil. I was clearly not paying enough attention early in this process though, as the first transfer I applied - the port side serial - was crooked and I eventually had to strip it off and replace it with a new (and different) number.

I really love these transfers. They look like they are painted on and they require no surface preparation or top coat.



The basic colours look lurid when they are first applied. It is important to have faith in the weathering process at this stage!

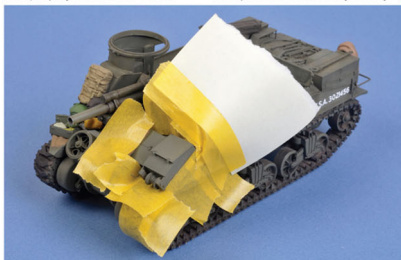
TIMBER TONES

If at first you don't succeed...

I must have painted and repainted the field telephone box and the top of the grouser box at least five times. I spent more than an hour mucking around with the finish, repainting and re-hairspraying at least five times;

plus various touch ups with a fine paintbrush. There is no substitute for trial and error!

The tools' wooden handles were painted with a mixture of Vallejo's acrylic PA310 Old Wood and 70877 Goldbrown. When this base coat dried, I streaked a thin topcoat of Tamiya X-26 Clear Orange along



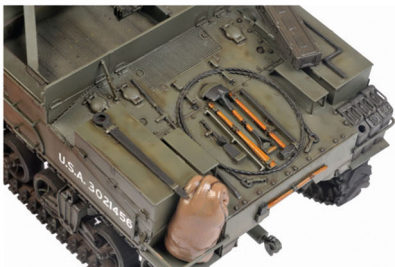
I decided to spray the field telephone box and the covered grouser box. These received a coat of hairspray followed by a pale timber shade.



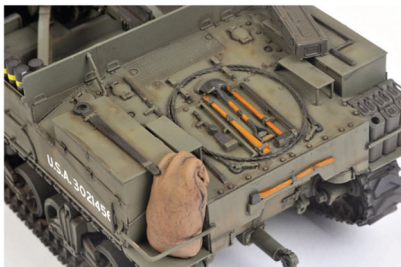
Here is the final result, although the process was far from straightforward. I spent more than an hour mucking around with the finish, repainting and re-hairspraying at least five times; plus various touch ups with a fine paintbrush. There is no substitute for trial and error!



Stowage has been treated to a dark wash of heavily thinned Winsor & Newton Lamp Black and Raw Umber oil paints. The edges of some of the straps and selected details have also been painted with fine lines of a very dark brown shade.



The tools' wooden handles were painted with a mixture of Vallejo's acrylic PA310 Old Wood and 70877 Goldbrown followed by an overcoat of X-26 Clear Orange.



What a difference a flat coat makes! The honours were delivered here by Gunze H20 Flat Clear.

the length of the handles. This creates the impression of grain on fairly new timber.

Painting these tools exposed the harsh reality of my dwindling eyesight. When I viewed close-up photos on my big screen of the tools after painting, I saw that I had missed several spots on the side of the handles. Out with the brush again for some touch up work.

By contrast to the new timber on the tool handles, the plank buried under the clutter on the front of the hull was painted a base coat of Tamiya XF-54 Dark Sea Grey. This was then treated

to a fairly heavy wash of thinned oil paints - Winsor & Newton Raw Umber with a touch of Lamp Black - to deliver the impression of old weathered grey timber.

The timber plank itself was simply a piece of plastic strip cut to size and scored lengthwise a number of times with a razor saw to suggest woodgrain.

FABRIC AND PACKS AND FINISHING TOUCHES

The tarpaulin and ID panel were painted with Vallejo 70874 USA Tan Earth and Tamiya XF-2 Flat White. The white was a base coat

for the later fluro red. Red paint is notorious for its poor coverage qualities, so the white base coat ensures that the final colour will be appropriately vivid. The fluro red shade was mixed from Vallejo acrylic 70953 Flat Yellow and 70957 Flat Red. The hem of the panel has been carefully brush painted with Tamiya XF-51 Khaki Drab.

The various packs and rolls on the front of the vehicle were picked out with half a dozen different Vallejo acrylic colours. These look outrageously lurid when they are first painted, but later weathering

tones things down.

The stowage was treated to a dark wash of heavily thinned Winsor & Newton Lamp Black and Raw Umber oil paints. The edges of some of the straps and selected details were also painted with fine lines of a very dark brown shade to help the strap detail leap out.

The bucket and the tub on the front of the vehicle were painted with a 50/50 mix of Tamiya acrylic XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown.

The .50 cal machine gun was painted in a blend of Vallejo acrylic 70863 Gunmetal Grey and 70862



The tarpaulin and ID panel were painted with Vallejo 70874 USA Tan Earth and Tamiya XF-2 Flat White before further treatment.



The fluro red finish of the ID panel is a mix of Vallejo 70953 Flat Yellow and 70957 Flat Red. The hem of the panel has been carefully brush painted with Tamiya XF-51 Khaki Drab. Note the pale patch painted onto the tarp.



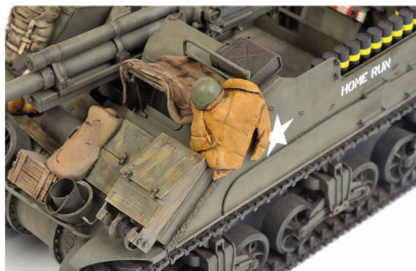
The pre-moulded tarp and ID panel fitted back perfectly on the painted rear deck of the Priest.



Jerry cans were sourced from Tasca. These were painted using Vallejo 70899 US Olive Drab.



The weathering and the final flat coat tones down and blends the previously alarming colours of the stowage – even the Leprechaun green pack.



The helmet on the shoulder of the jacket was glossed up slightly by rubbing a finger on the paint.



The tracks were treated to a mixture of Mig Pigments P234 Rubbel (sic) Dust and Vallejo's 73104 Light Sienna in a wet slurry. When dry, most of the pigment mixture was scrubbed off with a dry stiff brush.

Black Grey.

The tracks were brushed with a mixture of Mig Pigments P234 Rubbel (sic) Dust and Vallejo's 73104 Light Sienna in a wet slurry. When dry, most of the pigment mixture was scrubbed off with a dry stiff brush.

The same blend of pigments was applied with a small brush to the lower edge of the hull sides. Some of this caught on the top of the sand shield rails, as intended. The pigment treatment was kept to a minimum on the rest of the vehicle.

With the weathering done, the model now was complete – or at least after I thought it was – MMI contributor Andrew Judson took a close look and turned to tell me, "Ooh, you've missed something there. You haven't painted the grips and the cocking handle of the .50 cal!"

Of course, he was right, so I hastily applied the same timber painting technique to the machine gun grips as I had to the tool handles. I believe the cocking handle was actually a phenolic resin compound (an early plastic similar to bakelite – some Spitfire seats were made from the same stuff), but wood brown seemed appropriate for that too. ▶

The same blend of pigments was applied with a small brush to the lower edge of the hull sides. Some of this caught on the top of the sand shield rails, as intended.



“There is no doubt that this is the best Priest model in any scale...”

CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that this is the best Priest model in any scale. Dragon's 1:35 scale M7 is a great kit – well detailed and it looks excellent when finished.

There is also plenty of opportunity to personalise your model, thanks to the potential for stowage inside and out.

The kit would be even more appealing to a wider audience if only the instructions were easier to interpret and not peppered with errors and omissions.

Even so, I really enjoyed this project and heartily recommend the kit to experienced modellers.

The Priest also proved to be an interesting canvas for an Olive

Drab finish. The exposed interior with its yellow banded ammunition and red and white ranging poles added extra focal points to the bright ID panel and the varied shades of the packs, tarps, rolls and timber.

The Olive Drab itself was not so drab either, thanks to the variation of light and shade applied mainly with the airbrush. ■

The pigment treatment was kept to a minimum on the rest of the vehicle.



The .50 cal machine gun assembly was the final element of construction. This was painted in a blend of Vallejo acrylic 70863 Gunmetal Grey and 70862 Black Grey.

The tarpaulin, ID panel and duffel bag lend additional interest to the rear of the vehicle. Due to its lack of interior stowage, the front and rear of the real vehicles tended to be cluttered with gear.

Modelspec

Dragon 1:35 scale M7 Priest Mid Production.
Kit No. 6637

Accessories Used

Verlinden M10/M36 Stowage Set (1821)
Academy Allied and Axis Tank Supplies Set 1 (1382)
Tamiya Jerry Can Set (35026)
Ultracast Ammunition Box
Archer Fine Transfers – AR35200 Vehicle Nicknames;
AR3501W US Registration Codes; AR35023 US
Vehicle Stars; Surface Details M7
Staters 1.5mm Alphabets (1101)

Tools and Materials

Albion Alloys – 0.8mm Round Brass Rod (BXSM);
J30" x J30" Brass Strip; J20" Brass Rod;
Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement; Revell Contacta
Cement; Selly's Super Glue; Evergreen plastic sheet;
Kneadable Blue-Yellow Epoxy Tape; Milliput White two-
part epoxy putty; Micro Krystal Kleer; Tamiya Surfaces;
Tamiya Tamiya Masking Tape; Wadron Punch and Die
Set; Mission Models Multi-Tool (Small); NorthWest
Short Line 'The Chopper II'; Iwata HP-CH Airbrush

Paints and Finishing Products

Tamiya Grey Surface Primer (Spray Can)
Tamiya Acrylics – X-26 Clear Orange; XF-1 Flat Black;
XF-2 Flat White; XF-7 Flat Red; XF-22 Flat Grey;
XF-49 Khaki; XF-51 Khaki Drab; XF-53 Dark Sea
Grey; XF-59 Desert Yellow; XF-64 Red Brown; XF-78
Wooden Deck Tan.
Vallejo Model Color Acrylics – 70520 Matt Varnish;
70540 Matt Medium; 70873 US Field Drab; 70874 US
Tan-Earth; 70863 Gunmetal Grey; 70862 Black Grey;
70899 USA Olive Drab; 70893 US Dark Green; 70922
USA Uniform; 70953 Flat Yellow; 70957 Flat Red;
70988 Khaki; PA310 Old Wood
Humbrol – 1405 Gun Metal Metalizer
Gunze Acrylics – H20 Flat Clear
Winsor & Newton Oil Paints – 25 Lamp Black; 35
Raw Umber
Aerosol Hairspray
Mig Productions Pigment – P234 Rubble Dust
Vallejo Pigment – 73104 Light Sienna

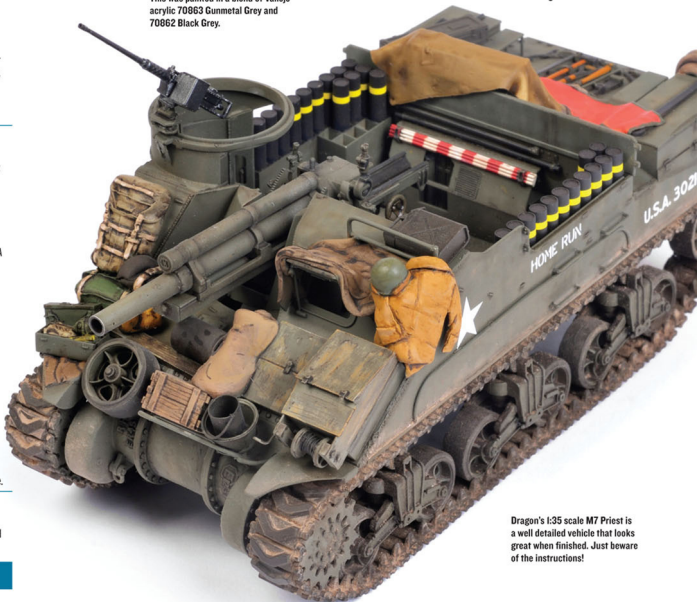
✓ Accurate; straightforward parts breakdown;
well detailed; interesting subject.

✗ Misleading instructions; tracks too long as
supplied; some oversimplification here and there.

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Rating ●●●●●●○○



Dragon's 1:35 scale M7 Priest is a well detailed vehicle that looks great when finished. Just beware of the instructions!

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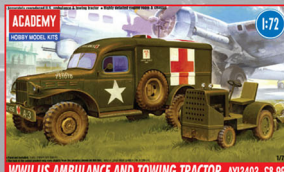
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WWII US AMBULANCE AND TOWING TRACTOR AY13403 £8.99



WWI FRENCH INFANTRY PG7199 £6.99



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BRITISH ARMY AS-90 SPG IFOR EA35001 £10.99



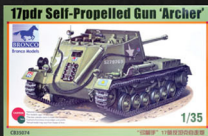
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Bronco's 1:35 scale Archer comprises around 1,200 parts, so it is no weekend project.



Graham Tetley reviews and builds Bronco's new 1:35 scale Archer.

HAVE MODEL, WILL TRAVEL

January in the UK is usually cold, wet and windy; which is why you truly normally jets away for some winter sunshine. And what better way is there to spend your holiday than to be sitting by the pool, all-inclusive snacks and drinks within a stones throw, and the wife out shopping?

This year it was the turn of Bronco's new 1:35 scale Archer to

get the winter sun treatment. It arrived just before the holiday so was able to be safely packed away, along with the usual glues, knives, files etc in the hold luggage. It all arrived safely and, after a meal and a few drinks, I was able to spread the kit around the apartment floor and have a good look at it.

What you get is a boxful of bits, approximately 1200 in all, cleanly cast and accompanied by a 30 page instruction booklet. First impression is 'Wow'. A lot of parts are insanely small but detail throughout is absolutely outstanding. This is not a model that can be put together in a weekend, and I was immediately aware of the perils

of tweezer launch. But Bronco has really done us proud here. This is as good as it gets.

LET CONSTRUCTION BEGIN

As I was writing a review for this kit I decided to follow the instructions with no deviation. That way you will get the full picture plus I can tell you where to make amendments. These will be pointed out as I go along, not listed at the end. There are some, but not many. So, after having found a table that would be in the shade all day and not too far away from the pool bar (I was on holiday after all) construction started as usual with the running gear.

Steps 1 to 5 deal with the lower hull and suspension. There have been some rumblings on the forums about Bronco's road wheels being too small. If that sort of thing concerns you then I am sure that

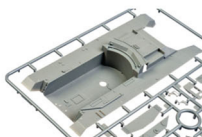
the aftermarket will come to your rescue, but any perceived error isn't too noticeable. What you do encounter straight away is the finesse that Bronco has included. The detail on the front idler mounts is especially noteworthy.

Recommendation 1 - do not glue the road wheels to the suspension units yet as their fit is a little woolly. Wait until Step 5 when the units have been fixed to the hull, then attach the road wheels. This is the best way to get them straight & level.

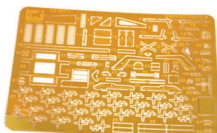
Recommendation 2 - The front idler sub-assemblies have their positions fixed vertically, but not horizontally. How far forwards or backwards you fit them will affect the placement of the front glacis Part A16, which in turn will affect the fit to the superstructure front Part G3. Do not fit them at this stage, this means leaving the tracks



A perfect holiday!



The impressive one-piece upper hull, including a tub for mounting the big 17 Pdr.



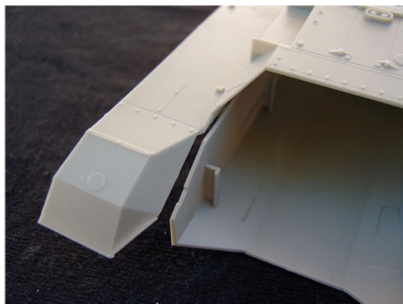
The photo-etched parts are soft and therefore easy to work with. There are plenty of them too!



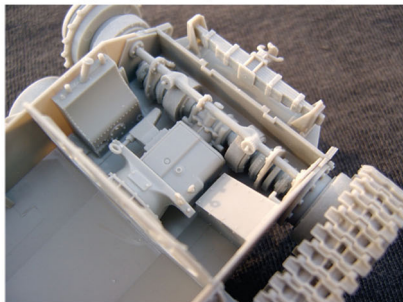
Individual track links fit together well, but it would have been nice if Bronco had supplied some spares.



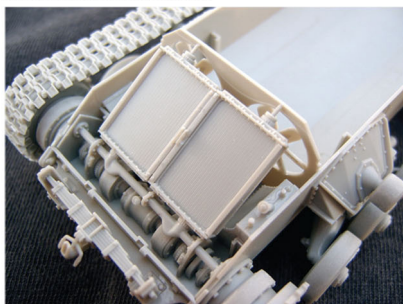
Three varied camouflage options are provided. The decals are very well done.



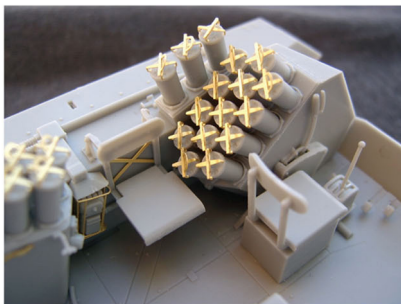
There was some warpage of the upper hull, which may be seen here during test-fitting.



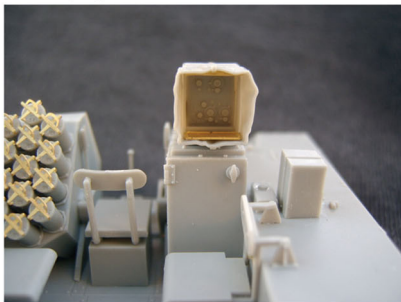
It is a shame to hide all this lovely transmission detail.



The completed transmission and radiators.



Front shell stowage is impressive.



The superb radio assembly.



This is all you can see of the radiators with the hull in place.

off but build the kit up to step 25 and then come back to this point.

Steps 6 and 7 deal with the lovely transmission parts. Bronco has really gone to town in this area, but when you get to Step 18 and fix the engine deck in place you are unable to see any of it apart from the large radiators. You cannot really skip much of this as the radiators attach to the rear firewall and drive gear, but if you plan to leave the engine doors closed you can just miss out this

entire section.

Bronco provides you with tracks that clip together and their inclusion is mentioned in Step 6. The tracks are not workable, but are strong enough to be put in place and left to dry. Detail and fit on them is outstanding, even down to miniscule casting numbers.

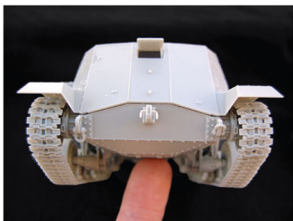
Construction of the upper hull starts from Step 8 and you should have no problems up to Step 15. My upper hull had a slight warp to it (see the photos) but that was fixed

when I got to step 18. You have the option of replacing the moulded on tie-downs with etched brass parts, which is what I did. One thing I will say is that bending all 26 things that go onto each shell is a chore, but fortunately I had beer on tap to help!

Steps 13 and 14 deal with the radio set, which I have to say is the highlight of the kit. Bending and gluing the bits for the headphones will drive you insane, but the end result is stunning.

Recommendation 3 - do not glue the radio in place as the instructions tell you to. There are no location marks and if you glue it too far back (as I did) it fouls part G3. Fit it all in place after Step 25.

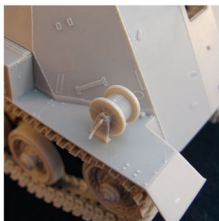
You can fix both hull halves together in step 15 but I left mine unglued. The fit is so precise that not gluing it now will give you the correct angles for fixing the lower hull plate A16 to part G3 later on, but with the option for a bit of 'wiggle room' if needs be. ►



This is what happens when you don't test fit.



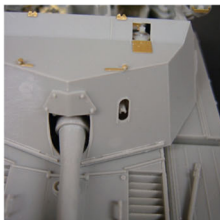
The completed exhaust assembly.



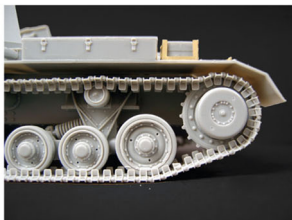
The lovely cable reel holder.



The completed driver's compartment.



The gunsights aligned perfectly first time.



Roadwheel detail.

◀ Steps 16 to 21 deal with the hull fixtures and fittings. Get all of this done, but leave off the rear towing assembly (sub-step 22) until you have the engine deck test-fitted. The louvred engine screens are a very tight and precise fit but can be left open if you wish, however all you can see (as mentioned earlier) are the tops of the radiators. You have to make the wiring for the headlights and smoke dischargers yourself. Bronco recommend stretched sprue however I used 5 amp fuse wire.

DAY 5. WHERE DOES TIME GO?

So, after a few days being able to devote just a few hours to the kit, I finally had a full day to myself. I

left the wife to go shopping whilst I set my stall out, only breaking for lunch.

The superstructure is dealt with in Steps 22 to 25. Add all of the internal detail apart from the instrument panel, part G47. Now, here is where you can solve all of the fit problems that I encountered.

The fit of the superstructure sides is so precise that you can just slot them into place. So, what you need to do is this. With the hull sides in place skip to Step 35 and attach the top plate part G4. Let that dry. Next, attach the superstructure front part G3 and again let it dry. By doing it this way you will get that top plate to seamlessly fit, plus you have a

definite location for the front glacis part A16 and the idler mounts. Once that is dry, you can get Part A16 correctly angled and joined to part G3 without the gap that I had visible in the photos.

Once fitted, you can then finish off the idlers and attach the tracks, plus permanently fit the two hull halves together.

By following the instructions I found that the instrument panel Part G47 would not fit between the bins in the hull front. Now that the superstructure is aligned you can fit that part and trim as necessary.

17 POUNDS OF DELIGHT

Moving on to the gun itself, Steps 26 to 32 presented no construction problems. The breech is moveable and I spent a good 15 minutes playing 'Upsies-Downsies' with it!

The gun shield has some ridiculously small parts to be bent into shape but the final result is worth the effort.

The small details finish the kit off and the next ten steps have you attaching the headlights, towing hawsers, machine gun, spare wheels etc. A lot of this is optional depending on early or late version, or whichever choice of vehicle you are given markings for.

One area of frustration is that, if you want the version with lots of spare track, Bronco requires you to buy their track set. Personally I would rather see the transmission parts deleted in exchange for two

or 3 extra track sprues, but that is personal preference.

ALL GOOD THINGS...

I could write so much more about this kit, but the Editor restricted me to a word limit. So what did I think of the kit? Absolutely beautiful.

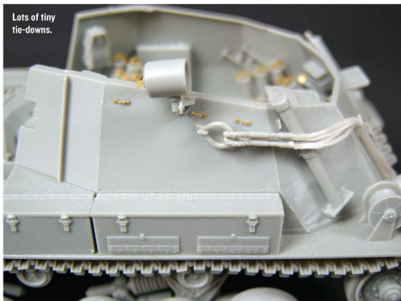
I have never built a kit where all 1200 parts fitted together and interacted so precisely. Yes, I had a few problems caused by following the instructions, but I can hopefully spare you from that.

Detail throughout is clean, crisp and superbly done. The brass is soft and very easy to bend, which is a blessing considering all of the small bits that you have to make. The plethora of tiny parts will deter some from building it, but patience and a steady hand will reward you with simply the best fitting and best detailed kit that has ever crossed my workbench.

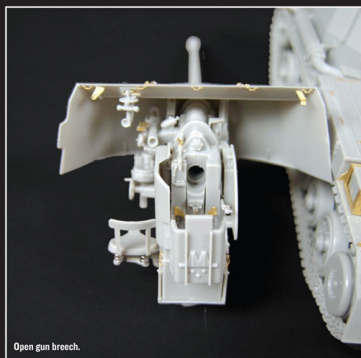
I must also add that building a kit on holiday also attracts some welcome attention, as one old gentlemen who came over to ask what I was doing turned out to be a Korean War veteran. The German couple that I talked to were also fascinated by it.

I can unreservedly recommend this kit, which must be a contender for Kit of the Year. ■

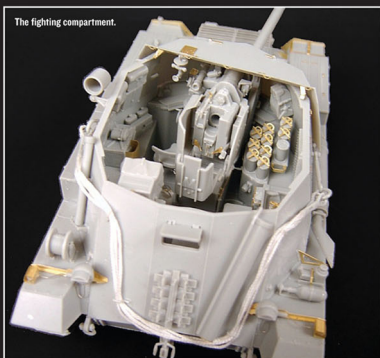
P.S. In case you were wondering, careful packing ensured that my Archer landed back home with no damage whatsoever!



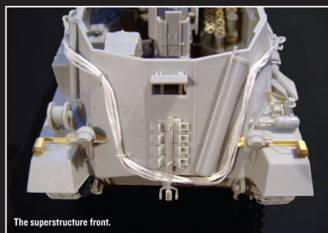
Lots of tiny tie-downs.



Open gun breech.



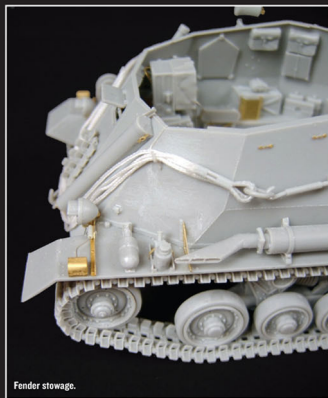
The fighting compartment.



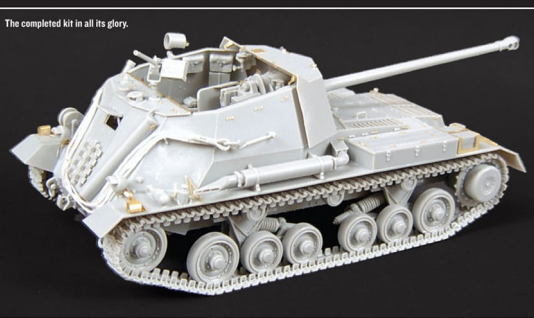
The superstructure front.



Not a simple project, but Branco's 1:35 scale Archer is a superb model.



Fender stowage.



The completed kit in all its glory.

“I have never built a kit where all 1200 parts fitted together and interacted so precisely...”



SMOKING KILLS

MAKING A VIGNETTE PART TWO – SETTING THE SCENE

In this instalment, Joachin Garcia Gazquez creates the base and the figure for his 1:35 Dragon Hetzer.



THE BASE

It is not necessary to build a complicated base in order to obtain a great result. The important thing is to choose the proper elements, size and layout.

The size must not be too big or small. Ideally, it should only accommodate the main subject (in this case, the Hetzer) and the other elements of the composition. A rule to bear in mind is that the base should not exceed 1-2 cm. from the central element to both sides.

The layout of elements should avoid symmetry or monotony, moreover being this a destruction scene. The best is to locate the tank obliquely with the ground; a slope composition will allow the observance of every element.

The elements forming the scene must be appropriate to both the moment and the place. If we find ourselves in the ruins of a factory premise, a metallic structure will be most appropriate. ▶



The pile of debris was formed from Kitty Litter, which offers with a great texture. It is also cheap and may be easily found. The bricks, roof tiles and cable drum are from Foro Models. Some fine sand and railway sleepers will provide the rest of the material. White glue diluted in water is a simple adhesive, so that everything is fixed in place during the painting process.



The metallic fence is built with Evergreen plastic beams, using a 1:35 scale plan as reference for construction.



Before all the debris is dry, we place the Hetzer so that it blends with the surrounding groundwork.



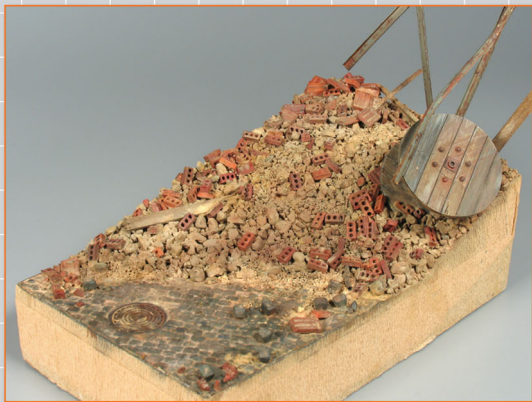
To start painting, we apply a coat of Tamiya acrylic XF-57 Buff as the base colour. Next, we will add shading to selected areas with Tamiya XF-10 Matt Brown.



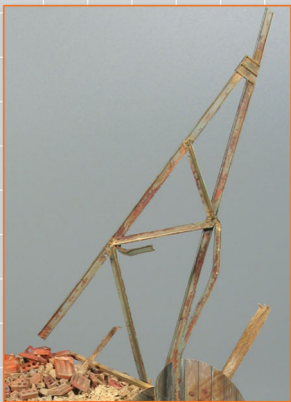
We will paint some details with a paint brush and acrylic paints - different tones of red for bricks and roof tiles, grey for the paving, different grey and ochre tones to detail loose stones, more grey tones for the wire's support and grey-blue for the metallic fence.



Next, oils paints are thinned and applied in different tones to the base acrylic colours. This will help blend the different colours and will help to settle earth pigments.



Notice how I have painted a dark shadow where Hetzer will be located.



The metallic structure is intensively aged, chipped and rusted. It will be located at the bottom of the scene acting as a backcloth.

THE FIGURE

It is essential to learn how to paint figures if we want to make effective vignettes.

Some modellers claim that they just cannot paint figures. I really believe that it is not that difficult as long as you understand the basic principles. A bit of practise and careful attention to detail is usually enough to get a good result.

Regarding the choice of figures, it might be great to do as Marijn Van Gils does - that is, modelling what we need. However, modelling figures is a difficult task, for which we need some anatomical knowledge and above all a lot of time.

Nowadays, we can find all types of figures, both in plastic or resin, accessories, heads, arms, equipment and anything else that we might need. With a bit of experience, we can transform and adapt these to our specific requirements.

At the beginning, our "Frontoviki", was only going to an accessory for the Hetzer, but the figure developed such level of personality that captures most of the attention that he has become the protagonist of this small vignette.

The figure is the excellent Alpine Miniatures Item No. 35013 "WW2 Russian Officer 1943-45". I changed the head for a Hornet resin item, and modified the hands, the equipment and the armament.



The figure ready to be assembled. Notice that the right hand is slightly bigger than the left one. I realized once the figure was primed and had to change it for a resin Histerex one.



The added parts are the PPS-43 gun, the corresponding cartridge belt and the helmet. They all belong to Tamiya MM35207 "Russian Army Assault Infantry". I added the fastening belt to the automatic rifle.



Priming a figure model is very important. It helps us to correct possible mistakes and prepares the surface for paint. We can see the first lights and shadows here, highlighting the excellent modelling of the figure.



As usual, I start painting with the flesh parts. For this figure I changed the palette that I normally use to paint the face. I used a white and red palette and the results were excellent. Unfortunately I lost the notes that I normally take, so I cannot explain the exact mixings used. I am really sorry about this!



A trick was to insert wire in the hands, so that I could easily remove them to paint the jacket. For this I used Vallejo's Russian Uniform 924.



To lighten the jacket I used Golden Flesh 845. For the trousers I used Oxford Blue 807 with a drop of Black 950. To avoid unwanted gloss I added a blob of Tamiya's Flat Base X-21. Vallejo American Blue 803 was used to lighten the trousers, and heavily thinned Black 950 to shadow.



I added small portions of earth tones and pigments to simulate dirt on the elbows, knees and boots.



To paint the leather parts as boots, maps bag and belts I mixed matt and gloss colours. For the base I used Leather Brown 940 with Bright Black 861. To highlight, I added Golden Flesh 845. Finally, I added shadows with heavily thinned Black 950.



The helmet is painted by mixing Russian Green 894 with Green Olive 967. The characteristic metallic bright is obtained with a bit of Medium Bright 470. We lighten it all up with Yellow Stone 882 and shade with heavily thinned Black 950. The paintwork is finished with chips and scratches, as well as stains of earth and grease.



Other finishing touches include the cigarette, made with stretched sprue, and painting the Sub-Lieutenant's emblems on the epaulettes.



Tech Guide - MAKING A VIGNETTE - PART TWO



The Sub-Lieutenant looks pretty placed with himself after he has been placed in the scene. The figure commands the attention of the viewer it is small in comparison to the rest of the vignette.



The sloping surface adds a sense of drama to this small vignette. Oil paints blend the different acrylic colours so that they are not too stark.



A view from the rear. The twisted metal structure offers an industrial scale despite the modest size of the base.



The details make all the difference. Note the impact of the big cable drum and the rubble. The cable drum has been painted with Vallejo acrylics.



The missing road wheel tells part of the story of this unfortunate abandoned vehicle.



Careful painting and weathering has transformed this plastic strip into a rusty steel wreck.

Modelspec

Dragon 1:35 scale Hetzer. Kit No. 6030

Materials Used:

Alpine Miniatures Item No. 35013 "WW2 Russian Officer 1943-45"
Tamiya MM35207 "Russian Army Assault Infantry"
Evergreen Plastic Beams
Kitty Litter
Tara Model Accessories - bricks, roof tiles and cable drum

Paints Used

Vallejo Acrylics - various
Tamiya Acrylics - X-21 Flat Base; XF-10 Flat Brown;
XF-57 Buff
Winsor & Newton Oil Paints - various

✓ Nice base kit; excellent figure; interesting project.

✗ Nothing worth mentioning!

Available from

All good model shops worldwide
Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

Rating ●●●●●●●○

April 6th-9th

AMPS 2011 International Show and Convention.

The AMPS 2011 Show will be held April 6-9th in historic Fredericksburg, Virginia, which is approximately an hour drive south of Washington, D.C.

This year's theme is 'Marine Armor' from all eras and nationalities. This event will feature on-site lodging as well as expanding the show by two days to allow for two military-history tours to include the National Marine Corps Museum (www.usmcmuseum.org) and the Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles (www.vmmv.org). Wednesday and Thursday, respectively.

This year's venue will be held at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House (www.fredericksburghospitalityhouse.com) which provides under one roof plenty of room for the model judging, displays, seminars and the vendors area. If ever there's a show not to miss in 2011, this is the one. Visit www.amps-armor.org for additional show information, pre-registration which begins 15 January and regular show updates. See you there! Ooh Rah!

April 9th

Sword & Lance 2011 will be presented by Darlington Military Modelling Society at the Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington DL3 7AX.

Doors open 10 am to 4.30 pm. Model and Militaria displays, Demonstrations, Trade stands and Open Model Competition with sections for:- Military Figure, Aircraft and Vehicle painters, Military Modelling (scratchbuilt/ conversion, vignettes and dioramas), Miscellaneous and Juniors. Licensed bar plus hot and cold refreshments also available. Do not miss those brilliant modellers, Carl Reid and David Zabrocki, who will be doing talks on how they produce their excellent Euro Militaire Award winning models.

Admission £2.00 Adults, £1.00 Senior Citizens & Children. For further details, contact: Colin Holmes, 127 Dinsdale Crescent, Darlington, Co., Durham, DL1 1EZ. Tel. 01325 489801 or by e-mail on c20hms@gmail.com (please note new email address)

April 16th

The Plymouth Model Show will be held at Plymouth Guildhall with disabled access from 10-4.30 on Saturday 16th April 2011. 20+ clubs and traders will

be present. Static and R/C Models, war gaming display and model railway will also be in attendance.

Refreshments and a raffle will be held during the day.

For further details, please contact David Watson on 01752 518287 or email sotised@blueyonder.co.uk

April 16th-17th

MMS 2011. The Mosonmagyaróvár Modelling Club and Association from Hungary kindly invites you, your family and friends to or 15th Jubilee International Model Show and Competition that will be held on 16 - 17 April 2011.

More details: www.mosonshow.hu

April 30th

IPMS Houston Modelmania 2011 will be held on April 30, 2011 at the Stafford Centre, 10505 Cash Road, Stafford, Texas. Contact: Richard Kern on 713-320-3599; or by email on richardkern@gmail.com www.ipms-houston.org

April 30th-May 1st

XVIII International Show Contest "Modellismo che passione!"

Location: Mirafiori Motor Village, Piazza Cattaneo 9, Torino Models registration: April Saturday 30th and May Sunday 1st from 10.00 to 19.00, at the show site. On May Sunday 14th morning for participants coming from more than 500 km.

Notes: Open International Show Contest organized by Centro Modellistico Torinese.

Club and information: Centro Modellistico Torinese - C/o Paolo Galanti, phone +39-348-2303135; Piero Parlani, phone +39-011318735; Dario Caraglio phone +39-335/5785631; e-Mail: centromodto@yahoo.it; web: www.cmtonline.it

April 30th-May 2nd

The South West Model Engineering, Model Making and Hobbies Exhibition will be held at the Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

30th April 2011: 10am - 5pm
 1st May 2011: 10am - 5pm
 2nd May 2011: 10am - 4pm
 15,000+ visitors and growing!

May 7th

Aero Space and Vehicle Club Open Day 2011.

Lots of scale models on display, including - armoured vehicles, planes and figures. Practical demonstrations. Come and talk to the modellers
FREE ADMISSION

Light refreshments available. Open 10 am to 4pm Saturday 7th May 2011.

At The Allen Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Womborne, WVS OLG (nr Wolverhampton just off the A449).

More details available on 01543 276025 or see us at www.ukvillages.co.uk and follow the links.

May 8th

Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show, Germany.

8th Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show will be held on 8 May 2011 at Festival Hall in Wilsdorf, Germany.

For more information please email info@modellbaufreunde-siegen.de or visit www.modellbaufreunde-siegen.de

May 15th

MIDLAND EXPO 2011
 IPMS Birmingham is pleased to announce the return of Midland Expo at a new venue, Cocks Moors Woods Leisure Centre and Golf Course, Alcester Road South, Kings Heath, Birmingham. B14 6ER., in 2011. We have a confirmed date of Sunday 15th May 2011 for the show and look forward to seeing many of the regular exhibitors, traders and visitors who used to attend Midland Expo at the old venue.

May 21st-22nd

Scale ACT '11
 At the Harmonie German Club, 49 Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT), AUSTRALIA. This two day modelling event features:

- scale model displays,
 - competitions,
 - local and interstate traders,
 - a swap 'n' sell, and
 - a dinner on the Saturday evening.
- More detailed information go to www.actsms.asn.au
 Contact: actsms@hotmail.com

May 22nd

The Northern Model Show 2011
 IPMS Tyneside's 'Northern Model Show' is to be held on Sunday 22 May 2011 at Temple Park Leisure centre in South Shields NE34 8QN. Entry is £3.50 for adults and £1.70 for children and concession holders.

Booking details are available from Graham Trotter by phone on 0876 441 701; or by email at grahamt99@yahoo.co.uk

May 22nd

Croft Model Show 2011

The Croft Model Show takes place on the 22nd May 2011 at Croft Village Hall, Mustard Lane, Croft, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 7BG. Doors open to the public between 10am-4pm.

On display will be kits, remote control tanks and daleks, dioramas, Meccano, Railway, War Games, Sci-Fi to mention only a few. There will be raffles, children's lucky dip, trade stalls and refreshments plus a special guest appearance by R2 D2. As always, all takings on the day will be donated to our designated charity The British Heart Foundation (Total raised to date £8787.82)

For further details if they could contact Paul Gemmell on gemmell.paul@yahoo.co.uk or Neil Morrison on nrm.sci.fi@googlemail.com

July 23rd

TORBAY MILITARY MODELLING SOCIETY MODEL SHOW 2011

This is the club's 40th Anniversary with IPMS TORBAY & SOUTH DEVON Saturday 23rd July 2011 Torquay Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay TQ1 3RD. Special competition theme this year: Korean War 1950/53 Club & Trade Stands. Competition, Refreshments. 9.30am to 4 pm www.torbay-ipms.org.uk
 Contact Paul Farrar paulfarrar@live.co.uk

September 3rd

Cornwall Model Show
 The annual Cornwall Model Show will be held from 10:00am to 6:30pm at St Johns Hall, Alverstree Street, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 2OR. Traders, Competitions, Clubs will be there. Admission: Adult £1.50 Child £1 Contact: Arthur Johnson ipmswestcornwall@hotmail.co.uk

October 21st-22nd

IPMS USA Region II Convention
 New Jersey IPMS once again is hosting the IPMS USA Region II Convention, we named JerseyCon II, at a new location - The Wyndham Hotel & Convention Center, Route 73, off Exit 4 on the New Jersey Turnpike, Mt Laurel, New Jersey. This new location offers better lighting, more vendor space and a better display area than the previous location. Show Theme: "1941 - America Enters the War". For more details contact Big Bill tomcatter53@optimum.net or the club's website www.njipms.org



It looks like a Panther, but it is only about half the size!

“IT’S A LEOPARD JIM, BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT”

No, it's not the modern German Main Battle Tank but a Paper Panzer. **Darren Thompson** examines the new HobbyBoss 1:35 scale VK 1602 Leopard.

Here's one for the fans of modelling 'Paper Panzers', the proposed reconnaissance tank, based on the Panzer II Ausf. J and heavily influenced by the Panzer V Panther, but that never quite made it into production.

Firstly, it has to be said that this thing is really small. Although it bears more than a passing resemblance to the Panther tank, it's about half the length!

Upper and lower hull details are very crisply moulded and the overall fit is excellent. The plastic colour and feel is very reminiscent of Tamiya's German AFV kits, being a sand yellow.

Individual torsion bars fit right through the hull, just like the real thing (well you know what I mean!), and standard Panther road wheels with rubber tyres fitted, allowing them to be positioned over a terrain base. Individual link tracks are also included, with separate hollow guide horns and whilst not workable, they do look very good.

The Panther theme continues with look-alike rear storage bins, wading snorkel, armoured aerial pot mount and idler wheels, all in the

style of its larger brother.

The turret is a departure from the hull's theme. This time, the eagle-eyed among you will spot a very similar design as was later found on the 234/2 Puma armoured reconnaissance vehicle. The angles may be slightly different, but it's a pretty good representation, somewhere between the quality of the old Italeri and the newer Dragon versions, in terms of detail, but probably closer to the former. There is a basic breech included, but no other interior details.

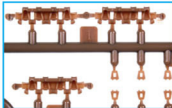
A nice photo-etched fret is supplied, catering for all the upper hull grills, a-la Panther and turret smoke grenade launcher brackets and ventilation grill, a-la, you've guessed it, the Puma.

Decals are a selection of white turret number outlines and standard Balkankreuz for you to apply as you wish.

Hobby Boss' new 1:35 scale VK 1602 Leopard will be ideal if you love something a little out of the ordinary, or wish to practice your camouflage painting!

Recommended. ■

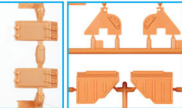
Hobby Boss kits are available from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk



Individual track links look good. They include separate guide horns.



Moulding quality is to a very high standard.



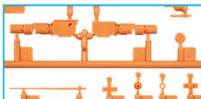
Front fender parts.



The turret is more like a Puma than a Panther.



The similarity carries over to the spherical mantlet for the 50mm gun.



Basic breech detail is included, but nothing else for the interior.



The gun barrel is presented in injection-moulded plastic.



The muzzle brake is nice moulded.

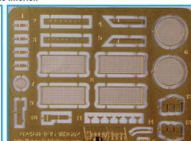


Photo-etched parts are supplied for grilles and smaller details.



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Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...



BLACK DOG

**1:35 SCALE
CANADIAN ARMY TANK
CREW IN AFGHANISTAN
ITEM NO. F35015**

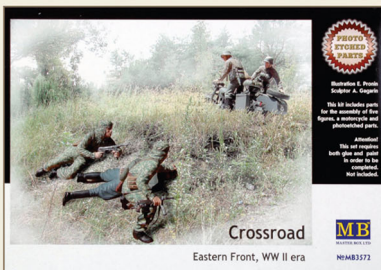
We Stand On Guard For Thee! While these are words from Canadian National anthem, the praise is being sung for the Black Dog model company from the Czech Republic that has produced two modern Canadian tank crew figures. Since Canada's Leopards deployed in Afghanistan in 2006 there has been only a very small trickle of Canadian figures produced that would complement the ever-growing conversions and kits of modern Canadian armoured vehicles coming on to the market. This new figure set contains ten resin parts to build two present day Canadian armoured crewmen in standard issue CADPAT uniforms, Model 4100 Personal Body Armour, and the CG634 helmet.

The first figure depicts a crewman with his arm up as if motioning for someone to stop. This figure's body armour has the protective collar and shoulder pads as well as carabineers securing the front Velcro straps. On the left leg of the figure there is a drop leg CB/C7 rifle magazine pouch. There are no personal weapons included in the set. I spoke to a Canadian armoured crewman who very recently returned from Afghanistan. He stated that the Infantry and Combat Engineers more commonly wear these pouches as they tend to get caught on the tank hatch rings. The unbuttoned pants on each figure are also a much more common dress with the Infantry.

The second figure depicts a crewman who is shouting and pointing. The body armour on the second figure does not have the shoulder pads attached and a commonly used pen pouch is attached to the front of the body armour. The buttons shown on both figures' pants pockets are not visible on current issue pants and are easily enough removed. The separate radio boom microphones are a nice inclusion but they are very fragile and can easily break before attachment. The helmets are nicely formed and include the night vision mounts but neither has the commonly worn elastic band with Cat's eye reflectors.

The details of the figures is superb. Cleanup will be minimal making assembly very straightforward. This set will most definitely add a new element of realism to any model of a Canadian AFV in Afghanistan. Let's hope that Black Dog continues with more modern Canadian figures. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Black Dog for the sample www.blackdog.cz
Jason Bobrowich



MASTER BOX LTD

**1:35 SCALE
COUNTERATTACK - SOVIET INFANTRY, SUMMER 1941
KIT NO. MB3564**

This set features six Russian Infantrymen in a charge on foot, led by an Officer.

The Officer is turning back toward his men, holding his pistol aloft and calling the charge. Two of the figures follow, running, while the remaining three are rising from the ground.

All the poses are very dynamic and the standard of uniform detail is very good.

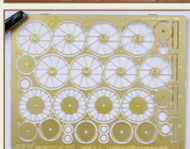
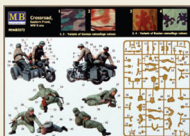
The backpacks and ammunition pouches all appear to hang naturally and detail on the canteens and spades are also very nice. There are nine heads between the six figures, so some degree of customisation is possible, with helmets, side caps and a bandaged head all included. Master Box is also in the habit of providing full heads and hollow helmets, so with a bit of skill and some putty, bare heads are also a possibility.

There are enough PPSH-41 machine guns and Moson Nagant Rifles, all with fixed bayonets, to further mix up the options and the officer has a pistol already moulded into his hand, looking far more natural than with separate gun and hand.

My set had a few wisps of flash around some edges, but nothing to complain about. The instructions aren't the greatest, being printed on the reverse of the box. Showing photographs of the finished figures for assembly is fine, but the monotone nature of the uniforms means the colour guide is not the clearest and you may require some further reference to get the painting just right.

This is another good set from Master Box with some great details and very good poses. They are snapping at the heels of Miniart and Dragon! Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Creative Models Limited for the sample www.creativemodels.co.uk
Darren Thompson





MASTER BOX LTD

1:35 SCALE CROSSROAD - EASTERN FRONT, WWII ERA KIT NO. MB3572

Now this is a nice idea. The latest set from Master Box features a neat little vignette in a single box.

This set teams up their previously released BMW R-75 Motorcycle and sidecar with a new rider and pillion passenger, pitted against a pair of hiding Russian machine-gunners, who have a captured German prisoner.

The motorcycle is unchanged from before, offering the entire combination on a single sprue of tan coloured polystyrene. Moulding is totally flash-free and some of the finer parts are very delicate indeed.

End mounted brake levers are moulded integrally with the handlebars and steering yoke and you'd be hard pushed to better it in brass. Equally too, the gear selection lever and rear seat assembly are well up to today's standards and the steering is easily modelled moveable, if you're careful with your cement.

Where many of these motorcycle kits fall down is the wheels. Not this kit, as there is a full set of four, one being the spare, provided in etched brass, especially designed by Aber for this kit. Those of you with a dislike for brass will be happy to know that the original plastic wheels are still on the sprue. Although a little chunky by comparison, they are better than you'd usually find for a spoked wheel in plastic.

All five figures are contained on the second sprue in the same tan plastic.

Firstly the Russians. These two both wear matching camouflaged, hooded smocks and trousers and at first the detail appears a little soft, but this is purely down to the clothing itself being very plain and pretty featureless. The fine folds and creases are there and are nicely done. One figure is posed in the prone position, resting on one elbow ready to fire his machine gun. The other is down on one knee, keeping a low body position, his right hand holding his machine gun, while his left is placed on the back of the German prisoner's head, keeping his head down.

The German prisoner is lying, face down, hands behind his back and with an object placed in his mouth to keep him quiet. The motorcycle team is obviously searching for their comrade. The rider is standing out of the saddle, while the passenger leans across the back of the sidecar, resting on the spare wheel. These two are wearing the smock type tunics and jackboots. Both heads are moulded whole, but hairless, complete with chinstraps, ready to take the hollow helmets.

With the poses so well moulded, it's easy to imagine these in a diorama setting, with the Russians hiding in long grass, while the Germans pass by, almost close enough to hear them breathing, trying to keep their prisoner from giving their position away. Very inventive and Highly Recommended! Thanks to Creative Models Limited for the sample www.creativemodels.co.uk
Darren Thompson.



DRAGON

'39 - '45 SERIES

1:35 SCALE GHOST DIVISION TANK CREW, BLITZKRIEG 1940 KIT NO. 6654

This new set of figures is part of Dragon's 70th Anniversary of operation 'Fall Gelb' and features four figures during what they call 'The Battle of France'.

The kit features four standing figures, three are wearing the early war, black Panzer uniform with either Schutzmütze Beret or Feldmütze field cap. The final figure is an infantryman in standard field tunic and steel helmet.

The box-art pictures these figures as two pairs, first, one of the tank crew is escorting another, who is holding his forearm, presumably injured, whilst the remaining two figures, the third crewman and the infantryman, stand and converse.

Well that's the poses described, now for the detail. In a word, exquisite! The facial and uniform detail on all four figures is just sublime, the creases and folds are crisp, pockets, insignia, belt buckles, even the shirt and tie underneath are all present and just require careful painting. The standing crewman wears his headphones, one over the ear, the other atop his beret, as was the custom and the headphone leads are moulded onto the jacket, then continue down to be held in the hand, the fine wire moulded integrally with the arm.

The headphones are supplied as individual earpieces, to be joined with an etched brass band.

The weapons and gear are of the now familiar 'Gen2' variety and also show excellent detail.

I really like this set, very useful and very Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

Darren Thompson



ADALBERTUS

1:48 SCALE MERIAN C COOPER KIT 48-005

As previewed in the December 1:48 scale column, this figure by Adalbertus is a stunner, cast as one piece with no visible imperfections. The sculptor involved in this project (Boris Knokhov Malowal) has done a masterful job in creating this figure. The facial details and indeed the uniform are a thing of beauty. My only criticism is that the figure seems to have quite long legs (but this can be easily fixed). The figure comes with an interesting history of Merian C Cooper. What I like about this figure is it is so easily adaptable to almost any conflict from the 1800's to the present day, sure, you may have to modify the leggings for the time period but it wouldn't take much.

In my opinion, this is an outstanding release and well worth purchasing. Highly Recommended. Thanks to Adalbertus for the sample www.adalbertus.com.pl
Luke Pitt



Incoming



HOBBYBOSS

**1:35 SCALE
LAND ROVER DEFENDER XD
"WOLF" WMIK
KIT NO 82446**

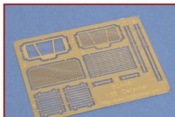
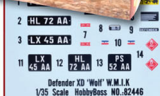
We have all heard that this kit was coming out, but when? Then out of nowhere, here is HobbyBoss' 1:35 scale Land Rover Defender XD Wolf WMIK. What is it like? Fantastic is a word that would sum it up well. The Land Rover WMIK (Weapons Mount Installation Kit) has been seeing a lot of use in active service over the past years in Iraq and currently in Afghanistan. This compact vehicle definitely packs a punch, with a top-mounted .50 cal machine gun and a front mounted GPMG.

Being a modern vehicle nut, and knowing people that have served or are serving, this was a kit I was keenly waiting to get my hands on. So what's in the box? Lets start with the six sprues of plastic, delivering a total of 239 parts. Also included are a clear sprue with 15 parts, five vinyl tyres, a photo-etched fret with ten parts, a small decal sheet markings for two vehicles, a colour A4 guide for colours and markings and finally a 12 page instruction sheet that looks easy to follow. All parts are well detailed, appearing to need only minimal clean up.

I am very impressed with the level of detail that has gone into this, with full engine bay and under chassis, driver's compartment and fighting bay. All the weapons look to be excellent, and once finished I would say this is going to be one great looking kit. All I would add would be some extra clutter and equipment; and some figures. Hint hint! all you manufacturers out there - figures! In summary, this is one impressive little model, and could be built as part of a diorama or a vignette without being too big in size. Highly recommended.

HobbyBoss products are available from Creative Models Limited
www.creativemodels.co.uk

Andrew Judson



MODEL VICTORIA

1:35 SCALE

WWII ITALIAN GUN BARRELS

ITALIAN M13/40 - 14/41 GUN BARREL. ITEM NO. 4091

ITALIAN SPG 75/18 GUN BARREL. ITEM NO. 4092

ITALIAN SPG 47/32 GUN BARREL. ITEM NO. 4093

ITALIAN 47/32 MOD. 35 GUN BARREL. ITEM NO. 4094

ITALIAN 47/32 MOD. 39 GUN BARREL. ITEM NO. 4095

Model Victoria has an impressive range of turned metal barrels for a good selection of Italian tanks and artillery. We have here barrels for the M13/40, M75/18 and M47/32. In fact, three versions of the M47/32 gun barrel are available.

All the barrels are perfectly produced and ready to use straight out of the packaging. The muzzles are hollow on each barrel.

These will be simple and very effective enhancements for your Italeri and Tamiya kits.

Highly Recommended.

Model Victoria products are available online from their website www.modelvictoria.it

Brett Green



HOBBYBOSS

1:35 SCALE GERMAN LAND-WASSER-SCHLEPPER II PROTOTYPE

KIT NO. 82461

Comprising nearly 500 parts, HobbyBoss adds to their growing range with their newest take on this unusual vehicle.

Arriving in a sturdy box, HobbyBoss' 1:35 scale Land-Wasser-Schlepper II Prototype comes with a large, flawless hull tub, hull top, 10 sprues for the vehicle, 7 sprues for the tracks, a piece of string and a decal sheet comprising of two white crosses only. The track links contain hollow guide horns and are nice and sharp. The instructions are clearly drawn and also contain a full colour painting guide.

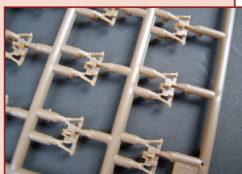
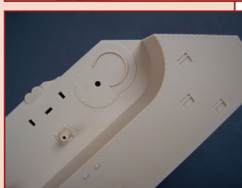
Detail overall is very good but not up to the standard of the Dragon kit but, having said that, this kit is half the price. There is some flash present but strangely it is on the joining surfaces of the road wheels.

At the time of writing this review I have started building it and can report that it goes together really well. Surprisingly, I like it! So, all in all, this is not a bad kit at all. If you want opening hatches and fine detail then it is not for you, but as an enjoyable build that is nicely detailed and at a nice price, this kit has it all.

Recommended.

HobbyBoss products are available from Creative Models Limited
www.creativemodels.co.uk

Graham Tetley





HOBBYBOSS

1:35 SCALE
IDF MERKAVA MK IV
ITEM NO 82429

When I first heard that this kit was being released, all I heard about was the mistakes and negatives. Yes, sure there are some serious mistakes, mainly with the offset drive line and no, I don't understand how they could have made this basic error (and it is a major one), but when you have a close look at the kit, it is otherwise pretty darned good.

So what is in the box? Let's start with 30 sprues, three main body parts and two idler wheels making for a total of 598 pieces of plastic, though 216 of these are for the separate track links. Also included are two frets of photo etch with a total of 86 parts, poly caps, chain beads and a length of chain for all those weighted chains at the rear of the turret, a sheet of decals to make a choice of two vehicles, an A4 double sided colour chart, and lastly a 16 page instruction book.

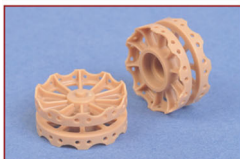
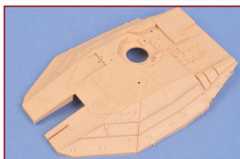
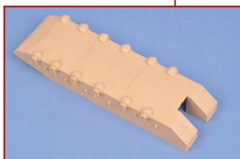
I was quite impressed with the parts. There will be minimal cleanup required, and the level of detail is of a high standard. Details that particularly impressed me were, surface textures on the upper surfaces, including anti slip; one-piece idler wheels; the anti RPG screens on rear of turret are real chain and balls, not etch; the choice of turret rear storage rack, being the cage or canvas enclosed; the weapon systems on the top of the turret; and the outstanding .50 cal Mag 58.

I really like this kit and, putting the offset road wheels aside, it has more to offer than previously released Merkava kits. I know that technically it is wrong, but at the end of the day, you can only look at one side of the kit at a time, and I say it looks like a pretty good looking Merkava IV. To all you IDF purists out there I apologise for my ignorance or lack of knowledge of the vehicle and I am only judging it for what is in the box.

Overall, a well detailed kit, and I recommend it for what it is - a nice model. Recommended

HobbyBoss products are available online from Creative Models Limited
www.creativemodels.co.uk

Andrew Judson



RHINO ARMOUR MODELS

1:35 SCALE
SOVIET BT-7M MODEL 1937 CONVERSION - ITEM NO. RAM 35003
SOVIET BT-5 CONVERSION - RAM 35005

Rhino Armour Products is a brand from A2Zee Models. Rhino Armour Products latest releases are two comprehensive conversions for Tamiya's recent 1:35 scale BT-7 kit.

The first, Item No. RAM 35003, is a BT-7 Model 1937 conversion. The BT-7 Model 1937 featured a new turret with sloping armour and it was normally fitted with the late version short-pitched tracks. Rhino has supplied an all-new turret plus replacement tracks using a total of 28 resin pieces. The turret is hollow and split in two main pieces - the upper section and the base. The mantlet is fixed at 90 degrees, but the hatches are separate and may be opened for the inclusion of figures if desired. A DShK 12.7mm machine gun is provided for the rear of the turret, including the inside half of the gun and the ammunition can.

The tracks are cleverly supplied as straight lengths for the upper and lower runs, and curved sections that will fit around the new resin drive sprockets and the kit idler wheels. The track lengths are attached to casting strips, and will be fairly easy to remove. Note that the side to be removed from the casting strips should face inboard on the finished model.

Masks are included for four marking options.

The next release, a Soviet BT-5 Conversion (Item No. RAM 35005) will deliver an even more dramatic transformation, although construction will be quite straightforward thanks to its relatively modest number of 38 resin parts. A completely new hull is provided here. This is an impressive and large semi-hollow resin casting. The driver's hatch is moulded shut. The idler wheel mount had broken off one side of my well-travelled sample, but this will be easy enough to pin and glue back in place.

New fenders, mudguards, idler swing arms, periscopes and spare track links make up the balance of this conversion. Just about the most challenging part of this conversion will be removing the spare track links from their casting blocks. It should be a very simple matter to add the required Tamiya parts to Rhino's resin conversion items.

This tank was usually fitted with the long-pitch track links, so Tamiya's nice link and length tracks will be used.

Masks for six marking options are offered with this conversion, including some very interesting Spanish Civil War and Finnish schemes.

The casting of all the parts on both samples is perfect.

These are quite straightforward conversions, and might be a good starting point for a modeller who has not tackled such a project before. Experienced modellers will like them too!

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to A2Zee Models for the samples www.a2zeemodels.co.uk

Brett Green

VOYAGER MODELS

1:35 SCALE

VB50209 MODERN RUSSIAN 7.62MM TANK MG BARRELS X 4

This is a small but very worthwhile if you are building a Modern Russian tank such as a T-55, T-72, T-62.

Voyager provides four excellent turret co-axially mounted 7.62mm MG barrels that are a far better option than the kits' plastic items. These will be easy to install, and will look brilliant once installed and painted up, giving your project a luxurious finishing touch.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Voyager Model for the samples www.voyagermodel.com

Luke Pitt



VOYAGER MODEL

1:35 SCALE PHOTO ETCH SETS

FOR TRUMPETER BMP-3 EARLY

PE35371 MODERN RUSSIAN BMP-3 MICV, EARLY VERSION BASIC

VB50155 MODERN RUSSIAN BMP-3 TURRET WEAPON SET

VB50210 MODERN RUSSIAN BMP-3 7.62MM MG

PEA224 MODERN RUSSIAN BMP-3 MICV INTERIOR

PE35372 MODERN RUSSIAN BMP-3 MICV EARLY VERSION BREAK WATER

The speed of releases and quality of Voyager's recent update sets is incredible. Pretty much as soon as a new kit is out, there is a Voyager update set not far behind.

In the case for the Trumpeter BMP-3, we have not one but five sets covering this kit in a mass of shiny new photo-etch.

The first is the Basic set which really is quite extensive and gives you a lot of extra detail externally in the form of three frets of photo-etch, resin tow cable ends and tow hooks, brass smoke dischargers, brass aerial mounts and various lengths of plastic, brass and copper rods and cables. Details cover, engine screens, hatches, smoke dischargers, straps, fenders, exhaust ports, tool clamps and many other external details are also included. Once complete you will have a highly detailed BMP-3. But wait - there is a lot more.

Next there is the weapons set, which has a brass spotters and alloy main gun, brass smoke dischargers and all their mounts and resin gun cupola. This all adds an even higher degree of detail, though as you noticed, you get more smoke dischargers. This gives you a choice of the degree of detail you wish to go to.

To add to the weapons, there is also a nice small set of 7.62mm MGs for both sides of the vehicles front. The barrels are in turned brass with resin mounts. These look excellent and will go well with all already mentioned.

Trumpeter has included a partial interior in this kit and yes, there is a set for that as well, giving you internal door and hatch details, flooring, extinguisher mounts and straps. With this you will be able to leave hatches open on the rear deck, add a little equipment clutter and you will have a fantastic interior that you won't need to hide.

Lastly is the Break Water set that is for the front end of the vehicle, and pretty much replaces the kits plastic parts and also gives you a much higher degree of detail and the choice of having it in the transport or fording position. Looking at the instructions, one could build this to work if very careful.

At the end of the day, you could use one or all of these sets and you would not be disappointed. They are all excellent. The instructions for all are clearly drawn and easy to understand, though if you are not experienced with photo-etch, start with an easy set, such as the turret weapons.

If you use all the sets, then you will end up with an incredible looking BMP-3. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Voyager Model for the samples www.voyagermodel.com

Andrew Judson



VALLEJO

NEW PRIMERS

Besides being a legend in the world of the fine arts and scale modelling, Vallejo Acrylics is also one of the most prolific companies in the field of model paints and weathering products.

Their originality has no limits and one of the best examples of their imagination and ability to innovate are their new acrylic primers. Some will ask: do we really need more primers? All I can say is yes, when they are top quality and original.

Vallejo Acrylics released six new primer colours. The colours are:

- 73607 UK Bronze Green
- 73608 US Olive Drab
- 73609 Russian Green
- RAL 8012 German Red Brown
- RAL 7021 German Panzer Grey
- RAL 7028 German Panzer Yellow

Besides the RAL 8012 German Red Brown, all the other primers are in the same shade as the models base colour. This is a very nice idea as it allows the modeller to save time and get the best results. At the same time as we are applying the primer base, we are also applying the base colour. If needed, a further thinned base colour may be applied over the primer. This will help keep all the fine surface detail.

Like all the other primers from Vallejo (Grey, White and Black), the new colours are very easy to airbrush without thinning, do not clog, and result in a strong smooth base for further painting and weathering.

So, what more can I say about this new line from Vallejo? All I can suggest is to buy and try them. You will become a fan!

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Vallejo for the samples used www.acrylicosvallejo.com

José Brito





Letters

WRITE TO: MMI Letters, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totterhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK; or simply email to: editor@modelmilitary.com
Tel: 01525 222573 Fax: 01525 222574
The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher.
Letters may be edited for publication.



BIG FOOT REPLACEMENT WHEELS

I hope that you can help me. On pages 44 and 45 of Issue 58 in the Gallery of an Italeri M923 Big Foot, the company that made the wheels is not named. Can you give me any information on the company that made them? There is next to no detail on the versions supplied with the kit. I would be very grateful for any help you can give me.

Regards,
Steve Stott

Ed Says, Hi Steve,
Although Takahiro did not specify the wheels that he used, I can tell you that there are resin replacement Big Foot wheels in 1:35 scale available from Tank Workshop (www.tankworkshop.com), Real Model (www.realmodel.cz), and MR Modellbau (<http://www.mrmodellbau.com/>). I hope this helps.

STRETCHING SPRUE

I build 1:35 scale British armour so well done for featuring it whenever possible. My question concerns antennae. They are rarely mentioned in either build articles or 'Incoming' but sometimes appear on finished models and of course greatly enhance a model. I assume heating/stretching of sprues is old hat but what aftermarket products would you recommend?

Best Wishes
Derek Richings
London



Ed Says, Hi Derek,

Sprue stretching is still a valuable technique for antennae and other fine scratch built parts although it may be more commonly used amongst more, shall we say, mature modellers (present company included).

I sometimes use fine copper rod for antennae. A friend of mine used to use brass rod, and thinned down one end with a grinder attachment on a Dremel Motor Tool.

There are also a number of specific after-market antennae available, including Accurate Armour's luxurious carbon fibre items.

I'll make a point of noting the antenna material used in all my future model articles! By the way, the antenna used on the recent Tascas 1:35 scale M4A3(76)W Sherman was Formations carbon fibre item no. FO10, pictured here. Thanks for the note and bye for now, Brett

MINI ART VALENTINE LAKEMAN MOUNT AND BREN GUN

I read your review of the MiniArt Valentine (Issue 59 - Page 46) with great interest because I have two in my collection to build. May I make two comments that relate to the Lakeman AA Mount?

Firstly, there should be a web strap fitted around the barrel of the Bren and attached to the arm of the Lakeman Mount. This can be replicated by means of a strip of masking tape of about 2mm width.

Secondly, The Bren needs slight modification. There is an extension under the barrel, just behind the bipod. On the model, this is attached to the top of

PC AND ANDROID ELECTRONIC MAGAZINE VERSIONS

I am a regular reader of all three ADH modelling magazines. I was excited when I learnt that your electronic versions to be extended to Android and PC platform in last November (I am not a Mac and iPad / iPod user). However, I haven't heard any update for the last couple of months. May I know when will the service be available?

Kelvin Law

Ed Says, Hi Kelvin,
You can purchase the PC and Mac version from pocketmags.com. We are a bit delayed with the Android version as we want it to be the best and have a great product for you to use. I hope you enjoy our future software releases. Many thanks.



the turret. This shouldn't be there and must be removed. If it were on the real weapon, it would foul the bipod. The other modification concerns the carrying handle on the barrel. This needs

to be bent to the left side (when looking down the Bren from the pistol grip). This is to allow the gunner to support the Bren when firing from the Lakeman.

Yours,
Chas Kenny
Ilford



Ed Says, Hi Chas,
Thanks for the helpful clarification. I am sure this will be very useful for readers planning to build the excellent MiniArt Valentine.

1:76 SCALE KITCHEN BARGE

Thank you for publishing the photograph of my kitchen barge taken during your visit to Bugle Call 2010 at Bath, but unfortunately you have put the scale at 1:35 when in fact it should be 1:76 scale. I was wondering if you would be interested in seeing more photographs and I have attached a couple for you to look at.

Barry Sharman

Ed Says, Hi Barry,

Sorry about my scale gaffe in Issue 59. The model is even more impressive considering its small scale!

Thank you very much for the additional photos. I have included them on this page for the viewing pleasure of our readers. Congratulations again on this model.



IT'S REVIEW TIME

In the interests of reducing the number of reviews in the backlog I will devote much of this month's pages to (you guessed it) reviews. I must say there has been a wealth of resin releases over the last couple of months and I have noticed a vast improvement in both variety and casting quality of the majority of the pieces. For those of you who read this column on a regular basis you will note we have been running a monthly interview section with modellers and in some cases figure sculptors. I have approached a number of "Master Making Modellers" to take part in the interview process. These modellers in my opinion are in the main

what I would describe as "Masters" as they can do it call from scratch building to producing moulds and selling their product to you and me. I have the greatest admiration for these guys as the overall process they go through as, it is quite beyond me and I'm guessing the majority of the people who read this column. I have structured the questions in an attempt to give you the readers some insight into the process of how masters are made. I hope you find these as interesting as I have in doing them.

Until next time *Luke Pitt*

TORO MODELS

1:48 SCALE
YOUNG MAN WITH COW KIT
ITEM NO. 48F53

Toro Models released this set some time ago but this is the first chance we have had to review it. The model is broken down into two main parts, the first being the figure. This is a wonderful piece of casting with no pin holes present anywhere. The sculpting is also noteworthy and has been handled very well. The next is the cow that comes in two very well cast pieces. I must say the sculptor involved (Maciej Dauksza) has a real feel for animals and this is good but it looks like a baby cow or at the very least a little cow.

This is an outstanding package and well worth purchasing.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Toro Models for the sample
<http://toro-model.home.pl>



GASO.LINE

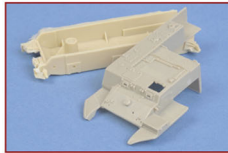
GMC M-12 155 MM GUN CARRIAGE
(CONVERSION FOR THE TAMIYA SHERMAN)
ITEM NO. GAS48063

The kit is supplied in a sturdy box with some 62 resin cast parts and a very well done instruction sheet. The resin, for the most part, is very well cast and is free of bubbles or pin holes. The upper and lower hulls are cast as separate items and are cast as hollow pieces. The lower hull looks like a resin duplicate of the Tamiya Sherman hull and will be much easier than the Tamiya part if you wish to add detail. The problem with all in box reviews is the parts may look nice in the box but do they fit? With this in mind I proceeded to saw off the moulding blocks on the upper and lower hull and found they fitted well with a minimum of gaps. I compared them to the available drawings I had on hand and they scaled out well. I then compared them to photos of the real vehicle and again the kit parts looked right.

Moving on to the gun itself, the first point of interest is how big and long it is. The casting itself is very well done and very straight with no warping present. The end of the barrel will need to be hollowed out a tad as it is moulded shallow. The gun cradle and all the associated hardware is also done very well. The rear spade can be positioned in either the firing position or travelling position. This is a very impressive kit and has good "bones". It should make a fine model. I have compared this to the Academy 1:35 scale example and to be honest, I believe this is one is better in terms of both finishes and buildability.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Quarter Kit for the sample www.quarter-kit.com



GASO.LINE

REPLACEMENT TRACKS FOR THE BANDI/FUMAN
PANZER II. ITEM NO. GAS48080
GASO.LINE REPLACEMENT TRACKS FOR THE BANDI/
FUMAN SD.KFZ.7. ITEM NO. GAS48089

Rejoice brothers. For all of you with the old Bandi/Fuman Panzer II or Sd.Kfz. 7 in your stash these sets will be a godsend! Both track sets are very well done and at least as good as any other aftermarket tracks that you can purchase today. The tracks come in lengths and are very cleanly cast with no imperfections of any kind. The Sd.Kfz. 7 has the correct pad height and the distinctive six hole lightning holes in each link. These sets will improve these old kits dramatically. To be honest with you, I like these tracks so much I am now on the hunt for both of these kits!

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Quarter Kit for the sample www.quarter-kit.com



TANK WORKSHOP

1:48 SCALE
US JEEP ACCESSORY SET ITEM. TWS 48002

TANK WORKSHOP ALLIED FUEL DRUMS AND JERRY CANS. ITEM TWS 48003

Both of these sets are from the growing range of 1:48 scale products now on offer from The Tank Workshop.

The Jeep set includes items like the canvas tilt often seen in the up position, together with a new and improved hood with the latches in place, various packs, helmets and Jerry cans make up the package. The second set includes seven 44 gallon drums with two of these open ended (which would make a great stove) together with 10 Jerry cans. These two sets are very well cast and offer great value for money.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Tank Workshop for the sample www.tankworkshop.com

Luke Pitt hosts MMI's examination of the growing world of 1:48 scale military models, figures and accessories.

MMI 1:48 Scale Q&A with Jamie Haggio

Jamie Haggio is new to 1:48 scale Military Modelling but he is a widely published aircraft modeller. I have chosen to interview him this month as I am impressed with his work and I think it would be nice to hear from someone outside the box, so to speak. Jamie is 38 years old and currently lives 'behind the wire' at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire with his long suffering wife and four children. He has been a serving pilot in the Royal Navy since 1996 and has flown a diverse number of aircraft ranging from the Tornado F3 on exchange with the RAF to his most recent front line type, the Lynx maritime attack helicopter. Currently he is flying a 115 Tutor. He tells me it is not as glamorous as the front line types but he relays to me it is nice to go upside down again! He has always made models on and off starting with the ubiquitous Airfix pocket money kits. Inevitably, modelling slid down the list of priorities during his late teenage years and university, however he got back into the hobby seriously during his flying training as mess life could get quite boring in the evening. Being a shiny new member of the Fleet Air Arm, his first kit was the excellent Airfix Seafire 47, followed by their Buccaneer and Hasegawa F-4K Phantom all in 1:48 scale. The vast majority of his collection is 1:48. I think that the scale provides an excellent canvass for a good amount of detail whilst not taking up too much space.

THE INTERVIEW

Luke: Hi Jamie. Good to have you with us. I note you have tried 1:48 armour. What do you think?

Jamie: Hi Luke. I have so far built just the one armour kit, the Hobby Boss KV-1 in 1:48 and I thoroughly enjoyed the project. My favourite aspect of modelling is weathering and armour subjects are an ideal canvass for this, in fact the KV-1 only took two days to build but a week to paint and weather. You could say I'm hooked. I'll still be predominantly an aircraft guy, however, I look forward to my next armour project.

Luke: What is the most influential 1:48 military scale model you have seen in print and why?

Jamie: I remember seeing Spud Murphy's Tamiya Crusader in an early edition of MMI. It was a stunning model with very realistic weathering and he had produced a very nice but simple base, which really set off the model.

Luke: If you had to pick one kit that should be made in 1:48 what would that be?

Jamie: That's easy, a T-55. I remember seeing a Tamiya 1:35 scale kit done by Marcus Nichols in TMMI which was absolutely amazing. I'd love to be able to have a pop at it in 1:48. I do think there is a place for a lot more airfield related stuff though, some refuelling trucks would go down well, and especially a modern bowser based on the Bedford 4 tonner chassis. I'd also like to see the humble Land Rover done in kit form.

Luke: I'm with you with a T-55. Why Tamiya has not done this in 1:48 remains a mystery. Thanks for your time Jamie I look forward to your next 1:48 scale build would you like to add anything on where you would like 1:48 to head and your thoughts on the scale?

Jamie: You're very welcome. Being an aviator it's always a pleasure talking about one's self! Seriously though, I do like a good chin wag about the hobby I love, that's probably why I missed so much at Telford last time round! I'd also like to convey my thanks to Tamiya who have really kick started AFV modeling in 1:48. It seems to be really popular these days and has been taken on by many other manufacturers.

Jamie's 1:48 scale KV-1 will appear in a detailed article in Issue 63 of Model Military International magazine



HAULER

1:48 SCALE RAILWAY TRACKS ITEM NO. HLX48305

Hauler has released a set of railway tracks to compliment their Steyer 1500 Pritsche, reviewed last month.

Two standard sections are included with the sleepers and track cast into each length. The woodgrain on the sleepers is very well done while the track (with the connector spikes) is very well defined. Gravel ballast is not included between the sleepers which means that you may add ballast in the quantities you prefer. Highly Recommended. Thanks to Hauler for the sample www.hauler.cz

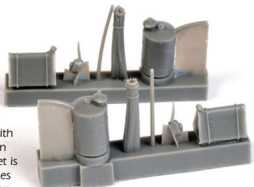


HAULER

1:48 SCALE OIL CANS, TINS AND ACCESSORIES ITEM NO. HLX48303

What a cracker of a little set this one is! 4 oil cans and 2 triangular fuel tins together with 2 millet brooms are included in this set. A small photo etch fret is included for the various handles for the tins. I must say this is an outstanding set in terms of originality and indeed presentation [as all the cast parts are perfect. This set has a 101 uses and is not to be missed. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the sample www.hauler.cz





Book Reviews

WWP, G027 - STRYKER MGS IN DETAIL

BY RALPH ZWILLING

ISBN 978-80-86416-93-9

WWW.WWPBOOKS.COM

WWP have been bringing us excellent reference books for quite some time now, and here is another that will not disappoint, especially for all you modern modellers out there.

This volume covers the Stryker M1128 Mobile Gun System, one of the most impressive looking of the Stryker family.

The book comes in the usual WWP format with soft cover, high quality gloss paper and filled with beautiful colour pictures throughout.

There are 96 pages starting with a history of the vehicle, followed by a walk around that leaves no stone unturned. There are also some extra chapters covering Live Firing, Ammunition, Stat Armour for those vehicles in Iraq, with great close up pictures of the mounting points and lastly, Uniforms.

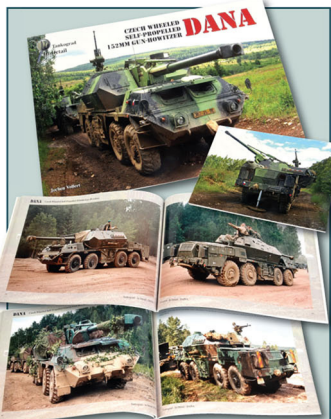
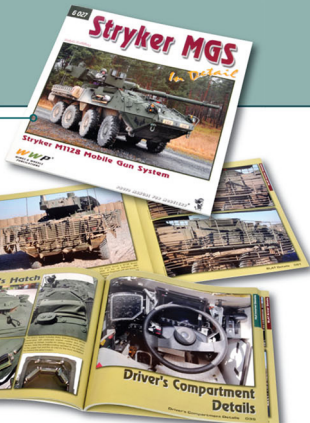
There are many pictures that will leave you with a wealth of info on this great vehicle no matter whether you are an enthusiast or a modeller.

This is an excellent reference publication from WWP.

Highly Recommended.

WWP Books are available from good bookstores worldwide.

Andrew Judson



TANKOGRAÐ IN DETAIL CZECH WHEELED, SELF PROPELLED, 152MM GUN-HOWITZER DANA

BY JOCHEN VOLLERT

NO ISBN

With the release of the HobbyBoss DANA kit, this is a timely and welcome book to have hit the market. Before this publication, there really was not that much out there in relation to this very impressive SPG.

Tankograd's DANA book comes in the form of a soft back A4 high gloss paper with 96 pages.

Inside, the book is packed with colour photos and a few black and white, showing this vehicle from its early designs up to current times, in its many camouflage schemes. Chapters cover History and Design, Technical Data, Inside the DANA, Camouflage, Walkaround, Live Firing and finally a section on the ZUZANA, sister vehicle to the DANA.

Some of the camouflage schemes are brilliant and will be look great on the HobbyBoss kit.

This is a fantastic publication of a little known vehicle that I highly recommend to all, especially those with the new kit. I for one will be giving a crack at this beast based on a picture in this book, but you will all just have to wait to see!

Highly Recommended.

Tankograd Publishing books are available online from their website www.tankograd.com

Andrew Judson



EDITIONS DU BARBOTIN CHAR B1 BIS

TECHNITRACKS NO1 PC DVD

Editions Du Barbotin and the Document Centre for Armoured Vehicles (CDEB) of the Samur Tank Museum have released a series of PC DVD ROMs which, for the first time, gather together the technical and instruction manuals of WWII tanks.

This PC DVD contains text, plans and photographs of the original technical manuals which are captured in their entirety in PDF format. The DVD can only be used with a computer that has Adobe Reader and Quicktime installed. The DVD also contains two bonus short film clips capturing the restored Char B1 being operated at the Samur Tank Museum.

As the PDF copies are of the original technical manuals that probably date back to the mid 1930s the text is completely in French but the technical drawings are excellent with no degradation over time. The terminology is fairly easy to translate and you can always revert to the Internet for translation of words. Having just acquired a Tamiya Char B1 recently I am looking forward to using this concise and handy reference during the build.

Highly Recommended

Thanks to Editions Du Barbotin for the review sample www.minitracks.fr

Mark Evans

DANDY AGENCIES LONG RANGE DESERT GROUP RHODESIA - THE MEN SPEAK

BY JONATHAN PITTAWAY

ISBN: 978-0-620-389

This A4 format, soft cover, 460 page book covers the history of the volunteers from Rhodesia who served with the Long Range Desert Group during WWII. The memories and stories of the Rhodesian veterans who served with the LRDG have been gathered together by the author, Jonathan Pittaway. He has skillfully assembled and arranged the experiences these veterans shared. These personal accounts give the reader an insight into not just what happened, but what it felt like at the time. He has tried to provide a complete view by including some accounts from the German side as well. As in all aspects of peace and war, there are two sides to every story.

The book is divided into eight main chapters. These cover the background of early desert exploration, navigation and how and why the LRDG was formed. The following chapters cover the North Africa, Aegean, Palestine, and the Adriatic campaigns, all areas where the LRDG and its Rhodesian members saw action. The final chapters cover Rhodesia itself, the Association for Veterans and finally an Epilogue, which shows some of the veterans returning to the former battlefields on which they served all those years ago.

This book is a must for model builders. It contains over 1,000 previously unpublished photos. These include not only photos of the well known Chevy trucks and jeeps but also the Morris 30cwt, Ford 3 tonners and even an Italian Fiat AL37 that were all used, along with colour photos of superbly restored vehicles, badges and insignia, documents and signals. There are also many photos of the members of LRDG and their unconventional dress and personal equipment.

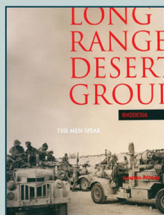
I read this book from cover to cover in one afternoon as I could not put it down. I was aware of the LRDG's role in North Africa but was totally unaware of all the other campaigns this group took part in. If you are interested in the LRDG or the WWII campaigns in the Mediterranean then this book will be essential reading.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to 30 Degrees South for the sample

www.30degreesouth.co.uk

Stuart Ransley





Is it a boat?
Is it a Panzer?
Darren Thompson
examines this
pigeon pair of
conundrums.

FLOATING DRAGON

These recently released 1:35 scale kits from Dragon feature something a little out of the ordinary for armour fans, depicting both the prototype 'Panzerfähre', or Panzer Ferry, designed to pull a floating pontoon across waterways, enabling the transport of armoured vehicles and troops where bridges weren't available.

The contents of both boxes are very similar and are designed to be used with one-another, so it makes sense to review both kits together.

These two large amphibious vehicles were based on the running gear of the Panzer IV and were the only two vehicles produced before the project was cancelled.

Assembly takes its normal course, with the suspension assemblies and road wheels built onto the large hull tub. Detail is good and individual 'Magic Tracks' are included, which saves on clean-up time and gives a very pleasing finished result. Left and right handed links are again

provided in slightly differing shades of grey to avoid mix-up.

The expansive top-deck is next and the fit here is excellent thanks to a bevelled edge on both deck and hull seams. This is just as well for there are a great many rivets running the full circumference of the hull top edge and it would be a shame to lose these due to excessive sanding.

Detail on the main deck is where the two kits differ, though only slightly. Prototype no.1 offers four vent stacks, which on the real vehicle were foldable and while this isn't offered as an option on the instructions, it should be a simple procedure to do so.

Prototype no.2 has just two vent stacks, which were fixed. This second prototype also has a bigger raised crew compartment than the first and while both offer positionable visors and hatches, there is no detail whatsoever inside.

Other features of the top-deck are a pair of centrally mounted exhaust mufflers, a drum winch and both an anchor and crane, which unfortunately can only be

modelled in the stowed position. The rear propeller assembly and its protective rail are about the only thing below the waterline, both of which are delicately done, as are the two large link chains which hang from the front and rear of the hull, to enable the pontoon to be affixed.

This pontoon is the other difference between the two kits, Prototype no.1 comes on its own, while Prototype no.2 comes complete with the floating pontoon. To accurately portray the complete ferry as it was designed will require both kits.

The pontoon itself is again well moulded, with delicate woodgrain texture on both upper and lower surfaces, with riveted metal construction for the sidewalls. The floating pontoon is big enough to take a Panzer IV, for example, and displaying the entire thing on a scenic base would make for an extremely impressive diorama.

Highly Recommended. ■

Thanks to The Hobby Company for the sample
www.hobbyco.net



This is the large raised crew cabin of the second prototype.



Here is the smaller cabin seen on the first prototype.



The decks of the two vehicles are similar.



Here is the large wooden deck of the pontoon that is slung between the ferries.



Woodgrain texture on the pontoon deck is outstanding.



Raised rivet detail on the sidewalls is well done.



Final drive housing.



The suspension units are based on those of the Panzer IV.



Moulding is up to Dragon's usual high standards.



You don't usually see these on a Panzer!



The large fairings at the front of the ferries.

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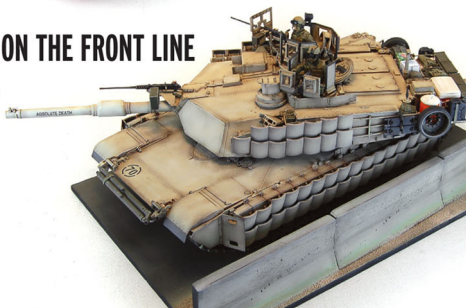


HEAVY HITTER

Dragon's 1:35 scale Porsche Jagdtiger built and impressively weathered by Pawel Rzymiski

THE GENERAL ON THE FRONT LINE

Jim Wechsler is back, this time with Dragon's 1:35 scale M1A2 Abrams and Legends' resin TUSK II Upgrade. Also in this issue will be Stuart Ransley's Abrams Think Tank reference piece.



MUJAHIDEEN MOTOR HOME PART TWO

We ran out of space in Issue 61, but at last you can see the addition of Jose Brito's conversion to a realistic Afghan base with three 1:35 scale figures.

FOR YOUR SAFETY



Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!



HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL

Thomas Morgan describes how he achieved a winter wash finish on Dragon's 1:35 scale RSO mit Pak 40.

Order online now at: www.modelmilitary.com



The Last Post..



POCKETMAGS BRINGS YOU ADH MAGAZINES ON YOUR PC AND MAC AS WELL AS IPHONE AND IPAD

In response to some questions on HyperScale's Plane Talking Forum, I have confirmed some of the important features and functionality of the ADH online magazines (including Tamiya Model Magazine, Model Airplane International and, of course, Model Military International).

First and foremost, when you pay for the issue or the subscription once, you may download and/or view those issues on any iPod, iPad, Mac or PC that is registered to you without any additional charge. For example, there are three iPhones and an iMac all registered on my account, so I can download and view magazines on any or all of these.

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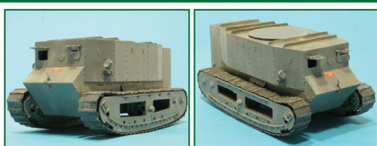
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I trust that this all makes sense!

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Please note that, unlike the iPhone and iPad, the browser viewer does not actually download the magazine. In this case, you are viewing the publication online.

If you have an iPhone or an iPad, next time you use that device you can open the App and download the same issue for no extra charge. ■



ACCURATE ARMOUR'S LITTLE WILLIE

Here are some photos of Accurate Armour's latest 1:35 scale kit, No.1 Lincoln Machine "Little Willie" from 1916, 95 years after her final demonstration took place.

This resin kit is available right now from Accurate Armour's website at www.accurate-armour.com



NEW 1:35 SCALE PORSCHE JAGDTIGER WITH ZIMMERIT FROM DRAGON

Weighing in at 71.7 tonnes, the German Jagdtiger tank destroyer was definitely the super heavyweight of WWII armoured vehicles.

Dragon previously released a 1:35 scale Premium Edition Jagdtiger Porsche kit (Item No. 6351), but this latest vehicle has received a number of improvements - most notably the application of zimmerit on the upper hull, rear plate, glacis and fenders.

The hull is made from one piece. Other brand new parts include the mantlet and glacis plate.

This is an impressive kit, and its new textured surface makes it even more desirable.

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net



PANZERWRECKS 12

How did GIs turn a 12 tonner into a time bomb? Which hatch on a Jagdtiger is never noticed? What short-lived feature appeared on factory Jagdpanthers? What unique items were added later in the field? What colour was the 'Octopus Tiger'? Could a Panther take a round through the side and still move? The answers to these and other questions are to be found here in Panzerwrecks 12, with 134 rare and unpublished large format photographs sourced from around the world.

More details, including page samples & vehicle listing may be found at: www.panzerwrecks.com/pw12info.html. For the latest information, updates and corrections you may visit Panzerwrecks' blog at: <http://panzerwrecks.com/wordpress/>



1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

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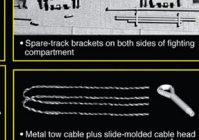
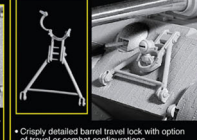
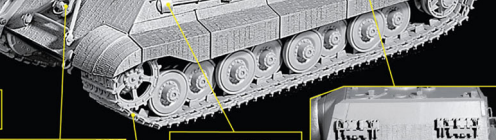
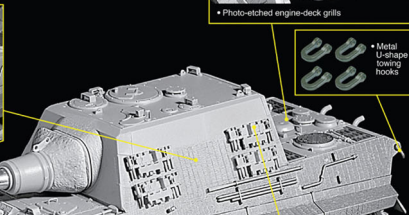
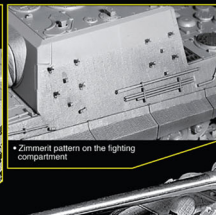
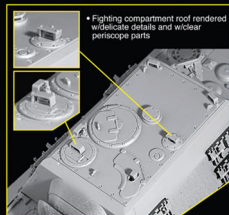
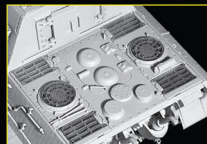
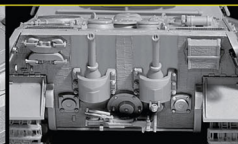
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JAGDTIGER

PORSCHE PRODUCTION TYPE
w/Zimmerit



Complete with injection-molded authentic Zimmerit detail, crafted with a modeler's touch



D6493

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See the full Dragon range at www.hobbyco.net

Dragon models are available from all good model shops

DRAGON

THE HOBBY COMPANY LIMITED

www.hobbyco.net

1/35
SCALE



(Late Modification Version)
Logs and concrete were added
to increase protection.

Finnish Defiance

1/35 Scale Sturmgeschütz III Ausf.G “Finnish Army” Item 35310

During WWII, Finland mustered its inadequately-equipped military to stand up to Russia's overwhelming invasion forces. 59 Sturmgeschütz III Ausf.G assault guns purchased from Germany played a pivotal role in defending the country against the fierce attacks of the Russian tanks. Finnish StuG IIIs underwent two rounds of modifications which gave them a different appearance than the German version, and Tamiya has captured all of these differences with this latest 1/35 Scale Military Miniatures Series release. The kit comes with new parts, including ones which accurately depict the logs mounted on the vehicle sides and the concrete armor applied to the vehicle's frontal area. A torso figure to depict the commander is also included and helps convey the steadfast determination displayed by Finnish forces during the defense of their homeland.

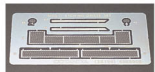
1/35 Scale
German Sturmgeschütz III
Ausf.G Early Version
Item 35197

1/35
SCALE

Length: 195mm



Detail-Up Parts



1/35 Scale StuG III
Photo-Etched Grille Set
Item 35199

Featuring engine intake and exhaust grilles, this set will give your model an even more realistic finish.

Early-WWII Russian Infantry

Figures Join the Fray

Item 35311

This set of 5 figures depicts Russian infantry in the style of field uniform which was worn up to 1943. Match them with the BT-7 or other early-WWII Russian tanks for a dynamic diorama.

1/35 Scale Russian Assault Infantry (1941-1942)



Comes with commander torso figure and 4 markings options

(Early Modification Version)

A Russian-made DT machine gun and a storage box on the engine deck were added.

Length: 189mm

Choose to assemble either early or late modification versions

Sturmgeschütz III Ausf.G

“FINNISH ARMY”

*Image shows assembled and painted model kit.

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